



GOTHAM GIRLS ROLLER DERBY



Roller Derby, Defined

In 1932, a scribbled outline on a paper napkin at a bar in Chicago led to the birth of America's first "spectacle sport".

Invented by Leo Seltzer, roller derby originally paired co-ed couples in a marathon roller skating race with participants furiously circling a track approximating the distance between New York and LA. The first Trans Continental Roller Derby took over a month to complete and only 9 of the original 25 pairs actually finished the grueling ordeal.

Like any great promoter, Seltzer soon realized these collisions were the most thrilling part of the game, which he tweaked to maximize the carnage. Two teams of five skaters now circled the pack, with each team sending out a "Jammer" to skate around and lap members of the opposing team for points. Derby became a full-contact physical sport, with elbows, body-checks and fights galore, and the fans loved it.



By the early '50s, roller derby reached its peak, with games regularly drawing 30-40,000 fans and skaters gracing the covers of national magazines. The sport sustained its popularity through the '70s, but then due to high travel costs during the gas crisis in the 1970s and over-sensationalized antics, it slipped into pop culture oblivion - until now.

Today, in post-millennium America, "everything old is new again" – including the roller derby. A neo-derby renaissance is fully at hand, with aggressive all-girl skaters jamming the pack to restore the sport to its hard-hitting former glory.

In locations as diverse as New York, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Tucson, Raleigh, Austin, Las Vegas and Milwaukee, a new generation of fierce female athletes is paying homage to the energetic, explosive traditions of derby past, while updating them slightly for a more sophisticated, modern audience.

GOTHAM GIRLS ROLLER DERBY



Roller Derby, Refined

Since the Austin, Texas-based Bad Girl/Good Woman Productions (AKA) Lonestar Rollergirls first hit the rink in 2001, the all-girl roller derby revival has been gathering speed at an increasingly frenzied pace. This new incarnation is a sport with real rules, real penalties, real injuries and real champions. The addition of a few modern touches – like tattoos and torn fishnets, live local bands at halftime, and enough bad-girl attitude to fuel countless cat-fights – has resurrected mainstream interest in this long-dormant sport.

Founded in 2003, GGRD, LLC has helped lead the charge to bring the American-born sport of Roller Derby back to the limelight. Gotham started out as 10 girls inspired by the Austin girls practicing everywhere they could lay down their wheels. Since then, GGRD has grown to a fleet of 64 skaters on 4 teams with 9 referees, 4 mascots and countless support staff. By the end of 2005 – GGRD’s inaugural season - the monthly games were drawing 1500+ fans to a rundown disco skating rink in the South Bronx without a bar or liquor license – and fans couldn’t get enough.



Lines out the door and down the block characterized the 2005 season game nights.

Many fans lined up early to get a seat on the floor around a curve in track (later christened the “Corner of Death”) in hopes that they’d be lucky enough to get a skater flying off the track into their lap – and usually were not disappointed. Older men and women who loved old-school derby came dripping in body paint cheering on their favorite skaters. Williamsburg hipsters were clumped next to gobs of 10-year-old girls who were attending their friend’s birthday party at the GGRD Championship game. All left the rink asking when the next game would be and what colors they should wear to support their favorite teams and skaters.

All-Girl derby fever has spread like wildfire. GGRD is a proud member of the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) along with 30 other active, skater owned and operated leagues around the country, and celebrates the 80+ leagues currently in various stages of formation. Individual established leagues in Minnesota and Washington are drawing crowds of 3-5000 people, and interleague games are drawing enormous crowds.

In February 2005, GGRD participated in the first all-girl national roller derby tournament in Tucson, AZ. This “Dust Devil Invitational” pitted 20 WFTDA leagues against each other for the national title. The 3-day event was sold out weeks beforehand and had to turn away hundreds of people every day.



All-Girl Roller Derby League List

30 Official Members of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association:

Alamo City RollerGirls (San Antonio, TX)
Arizona Roller Derby (Phoenix, AZ)
Assassination City Roller Derby (Dallas, TX)
Atlanta Rollergirls (Atlanta, GA)
Bay Area Derby Girls (San Francisco, CA)
Big Easy Rollergirls (New Orleans, LA)
Boston Derby Dames (Boston, MA)
Carolina Rollergirls (Raleigh, NC)
Dallas Derby Devils (Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX)
Detroit Derby Girls (Detroit, MI)
Dixie Derby Girls (Huntsville, AL)
Duke City Roller Derby (Albuquerque, NM)
East Texas Bombers (Tyler, TX)
Gotham Girls Roller Derby (NYC, NY)
Grand Raggidy Rollergirls (Grand Rapids, MI)
Houston Roller Derby (Houston, TX)
Kansas City Roller Warriors (KC, MO)
Mad Rollin' Dolls (Madison, WI)
MN Rollergirls (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)
Ohio Rollergirls (Columbus, OH)
Philly Rollergirls (Philadelphia PA)
Pikes Peak Derby Dames (CO Springs, CO)
Providence Roller Derby (Providence, RI)
Rat City Rollergirls (Seattle, WA)
Rocky Mountain Rollergirls (Denver, CO)
Rose City Rollers (Portland, OR)
Sin City Rollergirls (Las Vegas, NV)
Texas Rollergirls (Austin, TX)
Tucson Roller Derby (Tucson, AZ)
Windy City Rollers (Chicago, IL)

US Banked-Track Leagues:

LA Derby Dolls (Los Angeles, CA)
Lonestar Rollergirls (Austin, TX)
Renegade Rollergirls (Phoenix, AZ)
San Diego Derby Dolls (San Diego, CA)

Canadian Roller Derby Leagues:

Hamilton Harlots (Hamilton, Ontario)
Oil City Derby Girls (Edmonton, Alberta)
Terminal City Rollergirls (Vancouver, BC)
Toronto Terrors Roller Derby (Toronto, Ontario)

US Start-Up Leagues:

Arch Rival Rollergirls (St. Louis, MO)
Arizona Derby Dames (Tempe, AZ)
Brew City Bruisers (Milwaukee, WI)
Burning River Rollergirls (Cleveland, OH)
Cape Fear Killers (Wilmington, NC)
Capital City Rollers (Columbus, OH)
Charm City Rollergirls (Baltimore, MD)
Chitown Sirens (Chicago, IL)
Cincinnati Rollergirls (Cincinnati, OH)
Connecticut Rollergirls (Stamford, CT)
Crossroads Roller Derby (Indianapolis, IN)
DC Rollergirls (Washington, DC)
Denver Roller Dolls (Denver, CO)
Derby Rotten Scoundrels (Dallas, TX)
Dirty Dames Roller Derby (New Brunswick, NJ)
Dominion Derby Girls (Norfolk, VA)
Erie Rollergirls (Erie, PA)
Florida Rollergirls (Orlando, FL)
Fort Wayne Derby Girls (Fort Wayne, IN)
Gem City Rollergirls (Dayton, OH)
Grand Strand Roller Girls (Myrtle Beach, SC)
Green Country Roller Derby (Tulsa, OK)
Hollywood Devil Dolls (Hollywood, FL)
Hurricane Alley Rollergirls (Corpus Christi, TX)
Keystone Rollergirls (Bangor, PA)
Lancaster Rollergirls (Lancaster, PA)
Lehigh Valley Rollergirls (Allentown, PA)
Long Island Roller Rebels (Long Island, NY)
Memphis Roller Derby (Memphis, TN)
No Coast Derby Girls (Lincoln, NE)
NorCal Rollergirls (Chico, CA)
Omaha Rollergirls (Omaha, NE)
Penn Jersey She-Devils (Philadelphia, PA)
PA Roller Derby (Chambersburg, PA)
Pioneer Valley Roller Derby (Northampton, MA)
River City Rollergirls (Richmond, VA)
Salt City Roller Girls (Salt Lake City, UT)
Savannah Derby Devils (Savannah, GA)
Steel City Derby Demons (Pittsburgh, PA)
Switchblade Rollers (Clarksville, TN)
Tallahassee Rollergirls (Tallahassee, FL)
Tampa Bay Derby Darlins (Tampa, FL)
Tragic City Rollers (Birmingham, AL)
Treasure Valley Rollergirls (Boise, ID)
Twin City Rollers (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)
Wichita Rollergirls (Wichita, KS)
Wreckin' Rollers (Chicago, IL)

GOTHAM GIRLS ROLLER DERBY



Out and About – GGRD on the Streets

Among the many benefits of building a league of “grown-up” amateur skaters is the fact that the vast majority of our membership have “day jobs” that provide us with the means and expertise to make **Gotham Girls Roller Derby** a success. From high school English teachers and web producers to fashion designers and future rock stars, we’re able to draw from an immense, internal talent pool whenever there’s a need for off-skate skills.

Each and every GGRD occasion has been conceived, orchestrated and run exclusively by Gotham Girls. Venue scouting and negotiation, fundraising and sponsorship, publicity and promotion – even “talent” – is 100% self-contained within our ranks.

Past Fundraising Events:

- DerbyTaunt Ball Fundraiser for GGRD
- Benefit at the Knitting Factory
- Roller Rumble Street Races I and II (*photo bottom*)
- TV Party at Otto’s Shrunken Head
- Babes, Bingo & Beer at the Tainted Lady Lounge

Public Appearances:

- Coney Island USA’s Mermaid Parade (*photo top*)
- Revlon’s 2005 Run/Walk for Women’s Cancers
- NYC’s *Greenwich Village Halloween Parade*
- Ms. DeMEANor NYC Anti-Pageant

Sponsors:

- Brick & Mortar/Mirrorball/Mountain Dew
- Toys in Babeland
- Foodswings
- Sharps Barber and Shop
- Sock-Dreams.com
- Dirty Bandits Clothing
- Otto’s Shrunken Head Tiki Bar
- Lowpriceskates.com
- Lezly’s Skate School
- Lola Star, Coney Island
- Venus Magazine



GOTHAM GIRLS ROLLER DERBY



Gotham Girls On The Web

Garnering more than 85,000 page views per month, the GGRD Web site is an invaluable promotional tool for the league. In addition to the latest news and upcoming events, derby fans can access photo, video and media galleries, merchandise sales and info about the league. Visitors can chat with the girls and other fans on the bulletin boards, sign up for the mailing list (currently 1000 users strong and growing) and get the latest dish on their favorite girls via skater pages - complete with stats, photos, bios and the usual snappy trash talk.

GOTHAM GIRLS ROLLER DERBY NYC

HOME

OPERATION CRASHPAD

Gotham Girls Roller Derby has lost their home. After decades of operation in the South Bronx, the Skate Key Rink (home to the Gotham Girls' monthly season games and year-round practices) has closed its doors for good - leaving GGRD homeless. This news comes only 4 weeks before their 2006 season opener, scheduled for April 7, 2006.

[Click here to read more!](#)

OPERATION CRASH PAD
GOTHAM GIRLS SEARCH FOR NEW HOME

teams
news
events
photos
features
radio
video
shop
boards
about
staff
press
sponsors
links
contact

FEATURES

GOTHAM GIRL OF THE MONTH

This month we profile Lady Batterly — #79 on the Brooklyn Bombshells.

And in Ask a Gotham Girl, Surly Temple gives tips for taking your gear on a plane.

[more >>](#)

NEWS

It's cold outside, but it's warm on the rink! Bundle yourself up in our GGRD Team Tees this winter! Show your derby pride by sporting a Queens, Manhattan or Brooklyn t-shirt. All are available in styles for both ladies and gents so you can make sure friends and loved ones are safe and cozy as well.

Want one? Head over to our shop and wait no more!

Read all about this (and other exciting GGRD news) inside.

[more >>](#)

EVENTS

Dying for some time with your favorite derby girls? Come out to our season kickoff Black, White and Red Ball on Sunday, March 26, at 7pm. Spike your hair, wear your sister's old prom dress and come dance at the prom you wish you'd had.

And that's not all... Look inside to find out what else we're up to.

[more >>](#)

BOARDS

* OPERATION CRASH PAD: NYC DERBY GIRLS SEARCH FOR NEW HOME in News & Announcements - Anarchist →

* Happy Birthday Athos in General Chat - Athos →

* Bronx Gridlock on MySpace! in Bronx Gridlock - KING OF PAIN →

JOIN THE GGRD MAILING LIST!

GOTHAM GIRLS ROLLER DERBY



Derby Dames - Media Darlings

In addition to being the baddest bombshells in all of New York City, the Gotham Girls are coming into their own as a homegrown media phenomenon. Be it print, television or film, the media just can't seem to walk away from the daredevil divas of GGRD. The girls have been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Reuters*, and *Associated Press*, *CBS Sportsline.com*, *Marie Claire Magazine*, *Blackbook Magazine*, *Paper*, *Time Out New York*, *The New York Press*, *Fancy Magazine*, *New York Waste*, *Out Magazine*, *GoNYC Magazine*, *Elle (Sweden)*, *Playboy (Germany)*, *The New York Daily News*, *The New York Sun*, *New York Sports Express*, *Brooklyn Papers*, *New York Blade*, *Philadelphia Weekly* and even Britain's *UK Observer*. The national derby movement has been featured in *Jane*, *Bust*, *The Washington Post*, *Spin*, *Skin and Ink* and much more!



On the television front, the Gotham Girls have appeared on **CNN's *Paula Zahn Now***, the **YES network**, and local news broadcasts including **ABC's *Good Day New York***, **Fox 5**, **WB 11**, **WNBC's *Today in New York***, **UPN 9 Morning News**, **CBS Early Show**, and **News 12** (Bronx and Brooklyn). International media has kept us busy with appearances on Japanese stations **Asahi TV** and **Fuji TV**, German TV's fitness show ***Fit for Fun***, and international Spanish language station ***Univision***. Also, the national media has featured the new crop of all-girl derby leagues on ***Good Morning America***, ***Insomniac With Dave Attell***, **ABC Family's *Switched!*** plus a reality series on the **A&E Network** featuring the Lonestar Rollergirls in Austin, TX called ***Rollergirls***.



Gotham Girls have been featured in various independent projects including videos for bands the **Towers of London**, (at left) and the **Turbo ACs**. Also, an independent video installation by **Sara Rojaski** featuring the Gotham Girls will premiere at GGRD's 2005 Championship Bout.

GOTHAM GIRLS ROLLER DERBY



Upcoming Media

Following are just some of the press opportunities the Gotham Girls have on the horizon.



Print Articles:

- *Punk Planet*
- *Heeb Magazine*
- *Marie Claire Magazine (Italy)*
- *Newark Star Ledger*



Television and Radio Appearances:

- *CNBC*
- *Maxim Radio (Sirius Satellite Radio)*
- *MSG Network*
- *BBC World News Radio*
- *Radio Nova 100.3 FM (Australia)*
- *ZDF TV (Germany)*



Film Appearances:

- *Hell on Wheels* documentary
- Documentary project with filmmaker Joshua Thompson
- Music Video for the *Turbo ACs*
- Music Video for the *Towers of London*



Additional Media Interest:

- *MTV News*
- *NY1 News*
- *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*
- *Dateline NBC*
- *Good Day New York*
- *Brooklyn-based Cable Cooking Show*
- *GGRD/Roller Derby Reality TV Show*
- *Feature film proposals featuring the girls of the GGRD*