

METROSPECTIVE BY JASON CHAPMAN

BALTIMORE



Baltimore is home to many things you are probably familiar with. The very weird John Waters has directed most of his movies here. His last movie "It's a Dirty Shame" starred Johnny Knoxville who I am sure all of you are familiar with. Plenty of other big budget films have been made here in Bmore. 12 Monkeys, The Replacements, Ladder 49, Enemy of the State, Silence of the Lambs, Red Dragon, The Blair Witch Project, Deep Impact, The Diner, and many many others have given us a reputation as "Little Hollywood". In addition to movies Bmore gets some small screen action too!

The TV series "Homicide life on the streets" was filmed here for years! I was actually a stunt skater in the episode that guest starred Rosanna Arquette, I had to roll across the street and pop my board up Natas style. I got applauded and cheered by this kook ass crowd that was watching the taping. Dudes were giving high fives like I just won the super bowl. This star treatment was so ridiculous. The masses are such sheep! Homicide hired stunt skaters all the time. The director said it gave the backround flavor! Baltimore's newest TV show is HBO's the Wire. It's pretty gritty and has been ridiculed for portraying Baltimore in a negative light. Unfortunately, Bmore's crime rates are pretty high and the show seems to be just a little too realistic for the critic's taste. One of Baltimore's brightest stars Gumbie was just the featured skateboarder in that nationally aired Yellow Book commercial. He's the one doing the frontside air on a Heater brand board painted to look like a Yellow Book phone book!

Baltimore is not only "Little Hollywood", it's also the home of some amazing spots and a thriving skate scene. I believe that

one of Baltimore's skaters was the start of a chain that fueled the 80's Baltimore skate scene and actually changed the national scene. Eddie Hicks was the owner and operator of the Hell Ramp. The Hell Ramp was a huge steel vert ramp with a 6 foot steel mini ramp on the side. One of the locals at the Hell Ramp was little Charlie Lasek. Charlie was a pretty talented little grommet. So talented that when a Powell Peralta tour came through they took him with them. The tour went so well, everyone was so stoked on his skating that they added him to the Bones Brigade. Soon after Charlie Lasek got his first pro model using his nickname "Bucky".



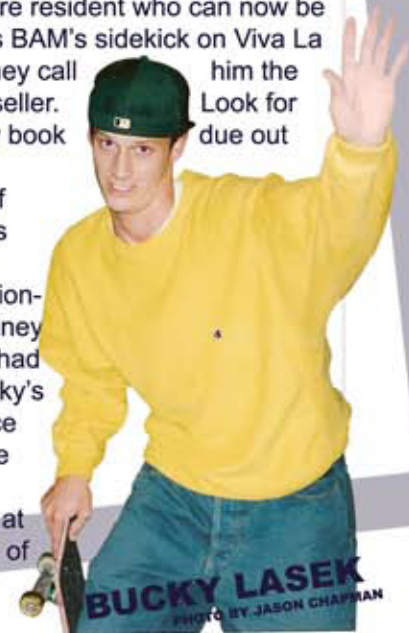
Bucky was super influential in every aspect of the Baltimore skate scene! Until about 1995 board shapes and tricks were changing radically all the time. New tricks were actually being invented daily. Skateboarding was progressing faster than companies could produce videos. Keeping up for us over here would have been impossible if not for Bucky's constant trips to Hawk's house! Keeping us abreast of all the new tricks, and keeping us posted on the direction skating was taking! This info kept us a step ahead, kept us progressing on a Cali level.

This was really evident at the contests we attended and usually won! So if Eddie never built Hell Ramp, and Bucky never got hooked up by Powell, Baltimore would have never felt this influence, that kept our scene so strong. Tony Hawk's Proskater would have been short a skater and X Games would have been short a champ.

I definitely would not have been in the position to write this article and I might not have opened the Charmcity Skatepark. It's awesome to think about the behind the scenes influences like Eddie Hicks that have had such a huge impact on the skateboarding community, locally and globally. R.I.P Eddie Hicks you will be missed, thank you for your contribution!

Powell has always noticed Baltimore's pool of talent. They sponsored Bucky's buddy Matt Martin in the early 90's. They also used to hook up Brandon Novak a Baltimore resident who can now be seen as BAM's sidekick on Viva La Bam, they call him the Dreamseller. Look for his new book due out soon!

One of Powell's current professionals Rodney Jones, had felt Bucky's influence since he started skating at the age of 10.



BUCKY LASEK
PHOTO BY JASON CHAPMAN



RODNEY JONES
BLUNT NOSEBLUNT SEQUENCE HOLTZ

BALTIMORE

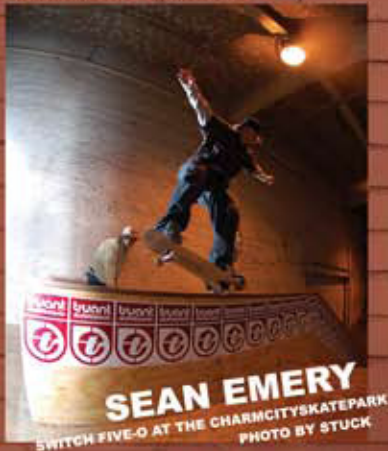


SKETCH

SWITCH BACKSMITH SEQUENCE BY HOLTZ CAM BACKSMITH PHOTO BY BART TAKARUJ

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Baltimore has gotten such strong roots, but our present scene is just as strong. There are so many reasons to visit Baltimore, but if you're coming for our City Hall's hubba don't bother. Right after Reynolds got that nollie noseblunt in, the city decided to destroy it! A lot of Bmore has been in videos, but there is still a ton of great spots that aren't played out yet. With all the new construction in Canton and downtown they are building new spots everyday.



One of the biggest reasons to visit Baltimore is the Charmcity Skatepark. I am a little biased because I own the Park, but at the Park we're a real family and we always have something going on! We have hosted 3 major contests this year and we're always changing the Park's set up, keeping it fresh!

Come check out the new double set we put in or the man sized hubba ledge, or you can hook up with some of the Charm riders and go skate downtown.

Speaking of downtown, there is the Pavillion gap in the Harbor Place which Andrew Pott just treyflipped and switch frontside flipped on a recent trip to Bmore. If you peep the Black Label video Black Out there is a ton of Baltimore.

Jason Adams skates the curved ledge at the pier blocks, and the uneven drop off ledges on Charles Street. Right off Charles Street there is a really comfortable double set two flat three. Follow Charles Street up to Mount Royal Avenue and hang a left. Right in front of the famous Lyric Opera house is a monument surrounded by ledges that someone's always skating. The ground is brick but they are marble and grind pretty well, it has uneven ledges so the hotshit has been slides and grinds to manuals. Pretty fun spot. About a block from the lyric is a large double set that's been getting destroyed by the Heater guys as of late. It's not Zero but it's nice. Looks legit on film. There are a thousand more spots downtown to find but I have got to mention how amazing Baltimore's suburbs are. I'll start with Dundalk where I am from. It has a ton of shit that also has been in a lot of videos. I think the office park 8 set has been in a couple Powell videos and shows up in every issue of Interstate the east coast videomagazine. Dundalk also



has FandM one of the funnest shopping centers on the planet. It's got the library benches and the North Point bump. The bump is super crusty, some of the roughest concrete I have seen. Jahmal Williams destroyed the bump. I guess he didn't mind that it was as close to sandpaper as it gets! Another spot famous for rough ass ground is located in Lansdowne right on the other side of the city.



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The Lansdowne bowl was built in the 1970's and the concrete definitely reflects that, rough as sandpaper. Shortly after the park was built the neighborhood which has a reputation as being a tough spot, burned the shop and office to the ground. After that the county took over and the bowl, and it was just sitting there for the next 20 years. Free to ride and free of county interference. But thanks to some councilman watching the Extreme Games, who got a bug up his ass to reopen the park, now it's paying and pads if you want to ride there. They added a pop up park but its hardly a consolation! The Lansdowne bowl has been in a ton of videos, starting with the old Santa Cruz video "Speed Freaks". Its been most recently scene in the Consolidated tour section in the Thrasher video "Rocket Science."

Lansdowne has seen some serious action but bar none the best trick to go down was Redney Jones kickflip indy over the "Spit Gap." The "Spit Gap" is a 25 foot dirt gap into a 9 foot bowl that you are shot at by a steep tranny after pumping the tightest roll over ever.

On a 1 to 10 scale the difficulty level is a 30. Check the next page for a pic. Rodney is Baltimore born and raised. I was there the day when he first started skating and he was super talented from day one. Rodney is so naturally talented that his contest wins and his placement in the Slamcity Jam are no mistake! Transition, handrails, steps, flip in flip out he can do it all. Check out 411#52 Rodney's profile highlights how sick he is and how rad Baltimore is. I think about 90% of it was filmed in Baltimore!



KEVIN FOX

BACKFLIP SEQUENCE BY GLASKOW PHOTO BY BART TARARUJ