

Skating
Through
The Ages

By
Courtney Ford

The park is a vast landscape filled with adventurous objects. Across from the curved up grind rail next to the fence closest to the street he stood. He leaned against the cool black chained link fence in the far back right corner of the park. His black baseball cap with a red and white “A” sat atop his short dirty blonde hair. His white tee hung just slightly above his knees, like a woman’s nightgown, and his black denim jeans rested low on his hips. His shoes were raggedy, the laces were torn and the little plastic ends were missing from both Etnie brand skate sneakers. He had a Russian accent that you could tell was fading from his time spent here in California. He has a handsome face like a male super model, high cheek bones, but what some would call “squinty eyes”. His name? Amir Sakaev and he is now eighteen years old and a sponsored skater. He compares himself to a skateboarder in the eighties; lets see how this plays out.

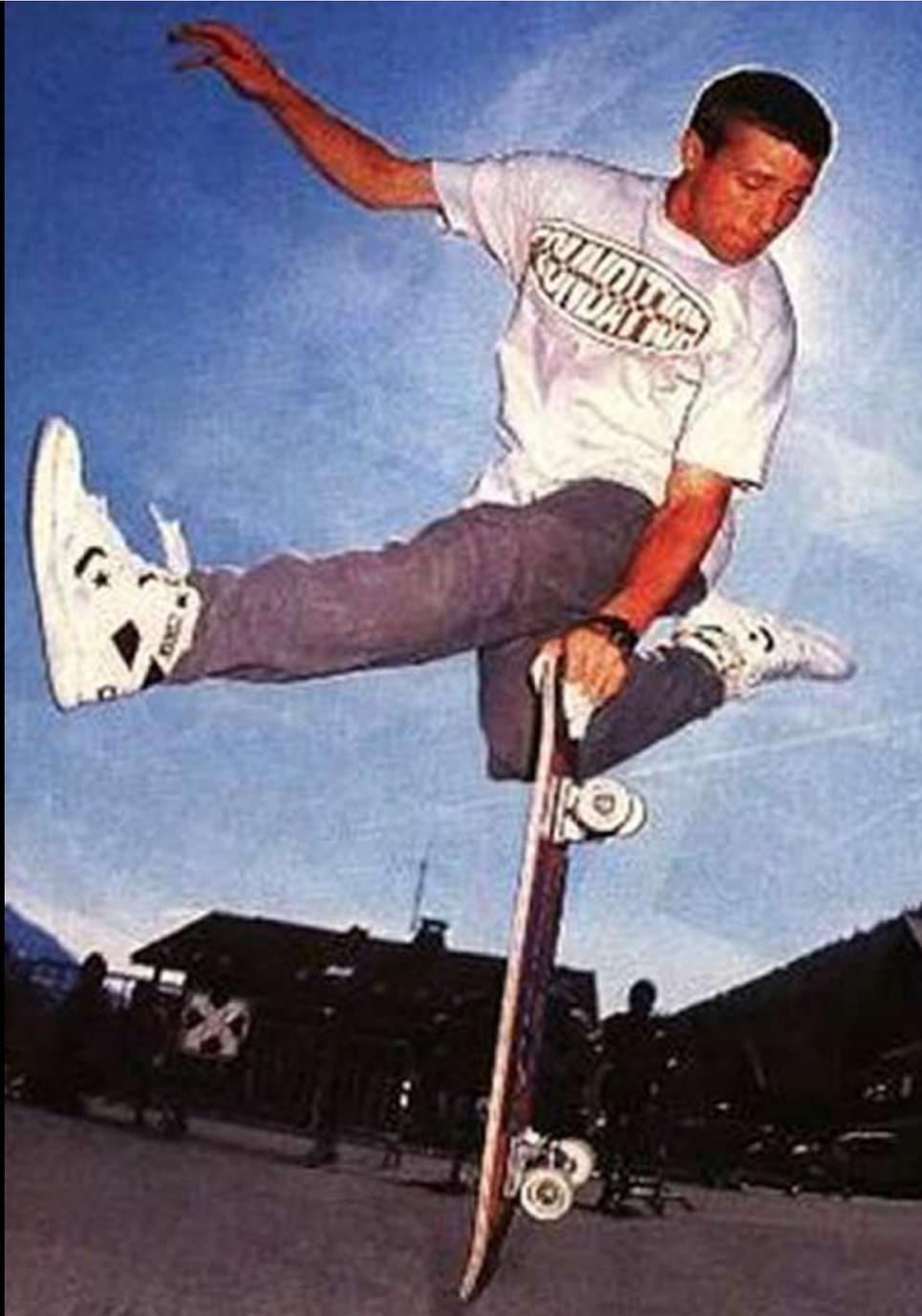
Because Amir was a sponsored skater, he and I talked about what it was like. Amir said that being sponsored sucked. Getting the free gear was awesome but it takes a lot of work and it takes the fun out of skating. I was surprised at what he said, because when he was sponsored he bragged about it all of the time, and he seemed proud of being able to accomplish his goal. His statement made me wonder, once again, if people who were sponsored in the eighties felt the same way.

Mattie Massacre

AkA

Mathew James Leos





Rodney Mullen (Found Image)

I asked Amir if he could teach my boyfriend some new tricks, he agreed and I watched as they “popped” and rolled with grace and agility. I was amazed at how quickly Matt, my boyfriend, had learned. Matt says that his favorite skater is Rodney Mullen. Mullen, AKA “The Mutt”, is a skate legend from the eighties. He is known

Andrew Walsh feels that skateboarding is an inspirational sport to the younger generation. It takes discipline and skill. “It is a good escape.” Vince believes it’s a fun way for teenagers to get from point A to point B and it’s good entertainment, if you can do tricks. Skateboarding is a better path for kids to take than doing “other things” like drugs.



Andrew Walsh age 16







Life & Styles...





I first started skating when I was five years old.

I remember it like it was yesterday, being forcefully pushed down that steep hill in my apartment complex.

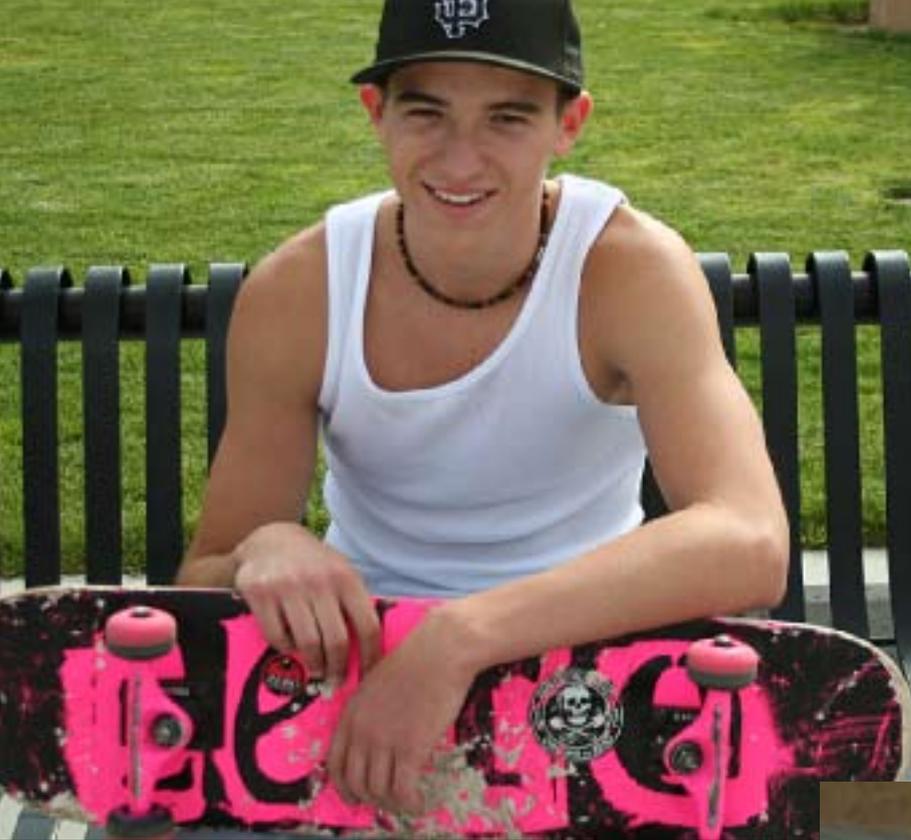
The wind whipping past my face, the tears of excitement welling in my unusually large, brown eyes. Then it happened, I fell. I blacked out for two or three minutes then came to. Hot red blood, pouring from my face like liquid hot magma. I remember my brother running towards me screaming, “Dude go get my mom! Oh my god! What am I gunna do?!” I felt my self try to stand, my lips were quivering from the shock, I rose to my feet, blinked a bit, grabbed the board, climbed up the taunting hill, then I rode back down. It was the proudest moment in my life, ever since then I’ve been itching for my adrenaline rush.

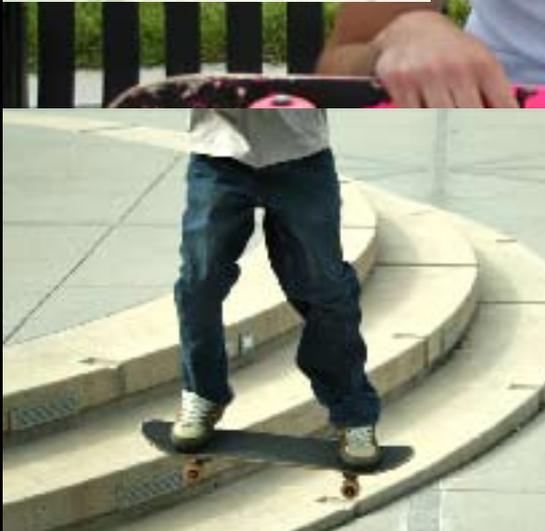
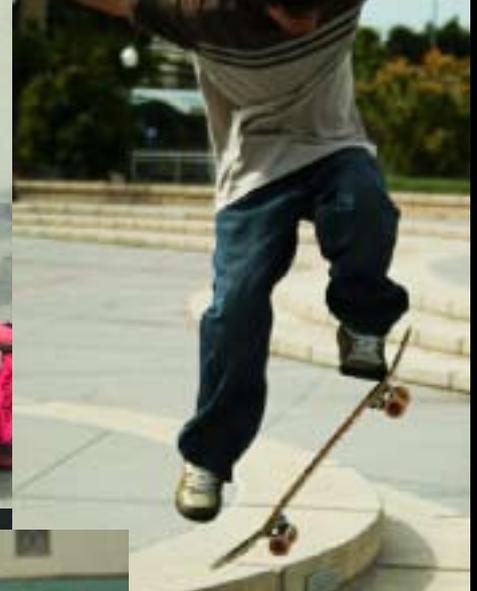


After a while of skating my uncle Timmy, and my older brother Jon, decided to teach me more than just rolling fast down hills.

My uncle taught me the way of “old school” street skating, made famous in the eighties, and my brother focused more on new school Vert.

They have both been an inspiration for me, but especially my uncle, I found that street skating was a lot more fun and complex, and the tricks I learned were not done anymore. I had a “vintage” way of skating.





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