



FEARLESS AND FLY

STREET SKATEBOARDING WITH LETÍCIA BUFONI

Growing up in São Paulo, Leticia Bufoni learned to skateboard in the streets near her family home. She was nine years old when she got her first skateboard. After two months, Bufoni could ollie and land a pop shove-it. "I was the only girl skating with eight or ten boys," she says. Her father did not approve: one day, he sawed her skateboard in half. "My world was upside down."

But when a family friend convinced her to do a contest, Bufoni won. After that, her father changed his tune and traveled with a 14-year-old Bufoni to Los Angeles to compete in the X Games, where she finished eighth. Bufoni decided she wanted to stay in the United States and reluctantly, her family agreed. "At first it was really hard, because I didn't speak any English," she says. But Bufoni persevered, and she soon had a shoe sponsor. Since 2007, she has won six X Games gold medals and traveled the world to compete and film, building a reputation for a high-intensity style and fearless approach. In 2021, Bufoni represented Brazil in Tokyo at the Olympic Games and finished ninth. "When I started skating I just wanted to skate, because I was doing what I love," she says. "I never thought I'd be one of the biggest skaters in the world—it's just crazy."