

**And Then Art Became a Sport -
1st European Championship in Chessboxing to Be
Held in Berlin**



Going by the motto "Fighting is done in the ring, and wars are waged on the board," the 1st European Chessboxing Championship will be held by the WCBO (World Chess Boxing Organisation) on Saturday, the 1st of October 2005 at the Autosalon Ost in Berlin. After the successful 1st World Championship in Amsterdam (2003) and a showfight in Tokyo (2004), this new sport discipline is to now be officially introduced in Germany. This event is simultaneously an opening ceremony of the world's very first Chessboxing Club (CBCB), which was recently founded in the district of Berlin-Mitte. Initially conceived as an art performance, chessboxing comes from the mastermind of the Berlin-based Dutch artist IEPE.

Two highly demanding worlds from the sporting universe clash with one another in chessboxing: the number one intellectual sport of chess and the number one fighting sport of boxing. The result is a sport discipline that challenges its players both mentally and physically. Chessboxers go through interchanging four-minute rounds of chess and two-minute boxing rounds. In a maximum of eleven rounds, a K.O. or checkmate can lead to an early victory.

At the European Championship on the 1st of October 2005 in Berlin, the Bulgarian Tihomir "Tigertad" Titschko will take on the Berliner Andreas "D" Schneider. "Tigertad" is one of the world's ten best players in bullet chess and recently beat Kasparov twice in a four-way match on the Internet. The 3D animator has been training his stately 91 kilograms with boxing combinations for just two years now. His opponent "D" is preparing for the fight at the first Chess Boxing Club in



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Berlin (www.cbcbberlin.de), where he's demonstrated his proficiency as a chess teacher. His ELO rating of 2175 is still somewhat lower than that of "Tigertad" (2331). In the real world, "D" is an actor and will be competing with his 83 kilograms and nearly two-year boxing experience as a local matador. The event's organisers are holding a musical and visual supporting programme parallel to the fight.

Initiator of the event is the Rotterdam artist IEPE, a resident of Berlin for many years now. In 2003 he staged the 1st World Championship in Chess Boxing as an interdisciplinary art project in which topics such as *a healthy spirit in a healthy body* and *controlling aggression* played a role. After a short period of time, the concept was developed into a serious sporting discipline, which, much like a biathlon, trains very technically diverse skills. To perfect the training methods and promote the new sport as an independent discipline, the first Chess Boxing Club was founded in Berlin, where the initiator himself offers boxing lessons. Back in 1999, IEPE attracted attention with his *Joker Performances*, which, using barrier tape, literally stopped traffic at Berlin's Hakescher Markt. He did a repeat performance the following year at the Shibuya Intersection in Tokyo, causing traffic mayhem, his own arrest and a news feature. In 2002 IEPE baffled onlookers once again at the Hakescher Markt with his project *The Berlin Miracle*: as if by miracle, it suddenly rained from a huge tree.

You can find more information at www.wcbo.org,
www.cbcbberlin.de
or www.iepe.net.

European Championship on
10/1/2005 at 9pm at
Autosalon Ost
Saarbrückerstr. 20-21
Underground Station: Senefelder
Platz

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