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A 4 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013

LOCAL NEWS



YouTube user dclassylife posted this video shot aboard the Staten Island Ferry, which registered 1,240 views in two days.

Island in step with 'Harlem Shake'

Borough says goodbye (we hope) to 'Gangnam Style' and hello to the latest Internet flavor

By EDDIE D'ANNA
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

For better or worse, the "Harlem Shake" has come to

our borough, with Staten Island Ferry riders, fast food patrons and even the Wagner College mascot getting in on the Internet sensation.

Not familiar with the "Harlem Shake?"

Much like "Gangnam Style," odds are you won't be able to avoid it for long.

But for the uninitiated, the YouTube sensation was inspired by the song "Harlem

Shake," a bass-heavy, synth mix by electronic music producer Baauer which was mostly overlooked at the time of its 2012 release.

The phenomenon didn't start until earlier this month, when a video blogger set the catchy jam to a dance on YouTube. The spoof video went viral, with user after

SEE SHAKE, PAGE A 4



This promotional video by ESPN U shows the Wagner College mascot performing the "Harlem Shake," a take on the series of YouTube videos which have gone viral.

SHAKE FROM PAGE A 1

Island in step with 'Harlem Shake'

user filming their own versions, adapting its unique routine to a different situation and setting.

The approximately 30-second offerings begin with an individual — usually in an outlandish mask or costume — dancing by him or herself in a crowded room as others go about their businesses oblivious to the disruption.

At the 15-second mark, the entire room jumps up and joins the dance, suddenly donning equally outlandish get-ups and waving silly props.

A YouTube search for "Harlem Shake" yields 76,000 returns with millions of views.

On Sunday, YouTube user dclassylife posted one shot aboard the Staten Island Ferry, which registered 1,240 views in two days.

The clip begins with a passenger in a skull mask dancing solo on a crowded boat before others join in. One participant rides across the gathering on the back wheel of a bicycle.

And a commercial for the ESPN U college sports channel hyping the Wagner Col-



Before long, the Wagner mascot is joined by a host of wildly dressed characters jumping around to the music, including one wearing a blue box sitting inside a shopping cart.

lege men's basketball game against LIU Sunday begins with the Seahawk mascot shuffling behind three studious players who are focusing on textbooks at a desk.

The bird is joined by a host of wildly dressed characters jumping around to the music, including one wearing

a blue box sitting inside a shopping cart. It had 1,590 views on Wagner's YouTube page as of Tuesday morning.

Several other videos claim to be shot in Staten Island living rooms, as well as a borough McDonald's, a clip which begins with a dancer in full-body green tights.

"The Shake" is not without

More on the web

To watch YouTube videos of Staten Islanders performing the "Harlem Shake," see the online version of this story at silive.com/news.

its share of controversy.

A Rockland County high school pulled its hockey team from a single-elimination playoff game after a racy version of the dance, featuring some of the student athletes in various states of undress, appeared on the Web, according to a report by Newsday.

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