

**Super Middleweight Contenders Andre Dirrell & Jose Uzcategui  
Battle for Interim World Title  
Plus Two-Division World Champion Rances Barthelemy  
Takes on Former Title Challenger Kiryl Relikh  
in 140-Pound Title Eliminator**

**Saturday, May 20 From MGM National Harbor in Maryland  
& Live on SHOWTIME**

**Tickets Now on Sale!**

**NATIONAL HARBOR, MD** (April 17, 2017) - An exciting night of action will feature super middleweight contenders **Andre Dirrell** and **Jose Uzcategui** in a matchup for the Interim IBF Super Middleweight World Championship plus two-division world champion **Rances Barthelemy** in a WBA 140-pound world title eliminator against **Kiryl Relikh** on Saturday, May 20 from the recently opened MGM National Harbor in Maryland and live on SHOWTIME.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast is headlined by WBC Featherweight World Champion **Gary Russell Jr.** making the second defense of his title when he faces top challenger **Oscar Escandon**.

Top 168-pound contenders **Dirrell** (25-2, 16 KOs) and **Uzcategui** (26-1, 22 KOs) are set to meet in a 12-round matchup with the winner in line to face IBF champion James DeGale, who is currently recovering from injuries sustained in his draw against Badou Jack in January on SHOWTIME.

"This fight is a massive step towards my journey to success in 2017," said Dirrell. "To me, this is my championship fight leading up to the rematch with the current champion, James DeGale. Jose has all of the tools of a champion, so he's fierce competition for me. But I will show the world that I'm up for the task. This is my year!"

"I'm very excited to be facing a fighter the quality of Andre Dirrell," said Uzcategui. "These are the types of fights that I've wanted and I look forward to coming out victorious. This fight will be another step on the way to my dream of becoming a world champion."

A world champion at 130 and 135-pounds, **Barthelemy** (25-0, 13 KOs) and the former world title challenger **Relikh** (21-1, 19 KOs) will battle in 12 rounds of action for the right to be the mandatory challenger for current WBA Super Lightweight Championship held by unified champion **Julius Indongo**.

"I'm very excited to be back in the ring, especially on SHOWTIME against a top-ranked contender in Kiryl Relikh," said Barthelemy. "This victory will get me one step closer to fulfilling my dream of becoming the first Cuban to win world titles in three different weight classes. I'm very motivated and I will not be denied on May 20."

"I'm thrilled to have this opportunity in a world title eliminator," said Relikh. "Rances Barthelemy is a good fighter, but my experience at this weight will help me get the victory. I'm ready to do whatever it takes to get this win and eventually wear that world title belt around my waist."

Tickets for the live event, promoted by TGB Promotions, are priced at \$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50, and are now on sale. To purchase tickets go to <http://mgmnationalharbor.com/>.

Representing his hometown of Flint, Michigan, **Dirrell** looks to take one step closer to a rematch with DeGale after dropping a narrow decision to the current IBF champion in May 2015. The 33-year-old bounced back from the defeat in his last outing by earning a wide unanimous decision over Blake Caparello last April. After a decorated amateur career that saw him win two U.S. Amateur World Championships in addition to an Olympic bronze medal, Dirrell was unbeaten in his first 18 pro fights before losing a split decision to Carl Frosh in 2009.

Born in Venezuela, **Uzcategui** now fights out of Baja California, Mexico, where he won two fights last year by knockout. The 26-year-old shot up the rankings in 2015 when he stopped previously unbeaten Julius Jackson in the second round after knocking his opponent down four times. Uzcategui was undefeated in his first 22 pro fights and enters this bout on a four-fight win streak.

A Cuban amateur national champion, 30-year-old **Barthelemy** has yet to taste defeat since turning pro in 2009. Born in Cuba but now fighting out of Las Vegas, Nev. he won a super featherweight world title in July 2014 by defeating Argenis Mendez in impressive fashion, and followed that up with a second round TKO victory over Angino Perez. After dominating former champion Antonio DeMarco in June, he won a world title in a second division when he impressively defeated Denis Shafikov in December. Most recently, Barthelemy made the lone defense of his lightweight belt with a decision over former champion Mickey Bey last June.

Fighting out of Minsk, Belarus, **Relikh** returns to the ring after challenging the former champion Burns for the WBA title in October 2016. The 27-year-old was undefeated after turning pro in 2011 leading up to his world title shot. Relikh owns wins over veteran contenders Christian Ariel Lope, Joaquim Carneiro and Lazaro Santos de Jesus.

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For more information, follow on Twitter @MrGaryRussellJr, @TGBPromotions, @MGMNatlHarbor and @Swanson\_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/SHOBoxing](http://www.Facebook.com/SHOBoxing) and [www.Facebook.com/MGMNationalHarbor](http://www.Facebook.com/MGMNationalHarbor). The event is sponsored by Corona Extra, La Cerveza Mas Fina.

#### **CONTACTS:**

Swanson Communications: (202) 783-5500

Tim Smith, Premier Boxing Champions: [timothy@haymonboxing.com](mailto:timothy@haymonboxing.com)

Chris DeBlasio, Showtime Networks Inc.: (212) 708-1633

Matt Donovan, Showtime Networks Inc.: (212) 708-1663

Flo Jocou, Showtime Networks Inc.: (212) 708-7319

Bernie Bahrmassel, TGB Promotions: (773) 592-2986

Malik Husser, MGM National Harbor: (301) 971-6212

Credentials: [www.magnamedia.com](http://www.magnamedia.com)