



**GARY RUSSELL, JR.
vs. OSCAR ESCANDON**
The Theater at MGM National Harbor
Saturday, May 20, 2017 ♦ Oxon Hill, Maryland



**Featherweight World Champion Gary Russell Jr.
Defends His Belt Against Top Challenger Oscar Escandon
Saturday, May 20
From MGM National Harbor in Maryland & Live on SHOWTIME**

Tickets Now on Sale!

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD. (April 7, 2017) - WBC Featherweight World Champion **Gary Russell Jr.** will make the second defense of his title when he faces top challenger **Oscar Escandon** Saturday, May 20 in the main event of **SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING** from the recently opened MGM National Harbor in Maryland live on SHOWTIME.

The Maryland-native **Russell Jr.** (27-1, 16 KOs) and the WBC Interim Featherweight Champion **Escandon** (25-2, 17 KOs) will battle in one of boxing's most talented divisions that continues to deliver exciting action fight after fight. A lineup of exciting co-featured attractions will be announced next week.

"I'm a gladiator getting ready for a tough battle," said Russell Jr. "This is going to be a huge night for my family and I'm glad that the time is here. This will be the first time as pros that I get to fight on the same card as both of my little brothers, (unbeaten bantamweight) Gary Antonio and (2016 U.S. Olympian) Gary Antuanne, plus my brother Gary Allan will work all of our corners. We're excited to get in the ring and show the fans what we're capable of doing in the ring."

"I've had to wait for this opportunity to face Gary Russell Jr. and I'm going to take full advantage of it," said Escandon. "It's going to be a great fight and I know the fans are going to get their money's worth. I feel 100 percent healthy and now that the fight is here I am ready to knock him out."

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/>. The main event is co-promoted by Sampson Boxing. This bout was originally scheduled to take place on March 11 but was rescheduled after Escandon suffered a back injury in training camp. Fans who bought tickets for the March 11 show will have their tickets honored on May 20.

"This is going to be a great night of boxing," said Tom Brown, President of TGB Promotions. "The featherweight division is very hot right now with the recent wins by Leo Santa Cruz and Abner Mares. There is something very special going on in the division and this will be another memorable fight. Escandon is a tough warrior who has proven time and again that he doesn't care about going on the road or where he fights. There are great boxing fans in the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia region and they are in-store for an exciting night on May 20."

A speedy and supremely talented boxer, Russell Jr., was impressive in his fourth-round stoppage of the battle-tested Jhonny Gonzalez that earned him the title in March 2015. The 2008 U.S. Olympian had scored important victories over Vyacheslav Gusev, Juan Ruiz and Miguel Tamayo before losing a majority decision to Vasyl Lomachenko for the WBO 126-pound title in June 2014. The southpaw, of Capitol Heights, Md., most recently scored a dominant second-round TKO victory over Patrick Hyland in his first title defense in April 2016.

Fighting out of Ibague, Colombia, Escandon turned pro in 2008 and was undefeated in his first 22 professional bouts. Escandon won an interim world title at super bantamweight in 2014 when he defeated Tyson Cave in his U.S. debut. He earned his shot at Russell Jr. last March when he survived an early knockdown to score a knockout victory over Robinson Castellanos in the seventh round of their showdown in Washington, D.C.

For more information, follow on Twitter @MrGaryRussellJr, @TGBPromotions, @MGMNatlHarbor and @Swanson_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SHOBoxing and www.Facebook.com/MGMNationalHarbor. The event is sponsored by Corona, La Cerveza Mas Fina.

CONTACTS:

Swanson Communications: (202) 783-5500

Bernie Bahrmasel, TGB Promotions: [\(773\) 592-2986](tel:7735922986)

Malik Husser, MGM Resorts International: (301) 971-6212

Credentials: www.magnamedia.com