

Premier Boxing Champions Presents a Thrilling Doubleheader of World Title Fights Coming to Los Angeles & Live on SHOWTIME-

Featherweight World Champion Jesus Cuellar Battles Former Three-Division World Champion Abner Mares, Super Welterweight World Champion Jermall Charlo Faces Undefeated Top Contender Julian Williams Saturday, December 10 From USC's Galen Center

Tickets on Sale Now!

LOS ANGELES (December 10, 2016) – Hard-hitting featherweight world champion Jesus Cuellar (28-1, 21 KOs) is set to take on former three-division world champion Abner Mares (29-2-1, 15 KOs) in a world title showdown that headlines a **Premier Boxing Champions** event on Saturday, December 10. The exciting doubleheader will be live on **SHOWTIME** from USC's Galen Center in Los Angeles.

The **SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING**- event begins with super welterweight world champion **Jermall Charlo** (24-0, 18 KOs) meeting top-ranked contender **Julian "J-Rock" Williams** (22-0-1, 14 KOs) in a highly anticipated matchup of undefeated stars.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Ringstar Sports and TGB Promotions, are on sale now and are priced at \$35, \$50, \$75, \$150 and \$200. To purchase tickets go to <u>www.galentix.com</u>.

"This is the most important fight of my career as Mares is one of the best in this loaded featherweight division," Cuellar said. "We had to wait very long for this fight to happen, but everything happens for a reason and I'm grateful that the time is almost here. I know that this fight will be a war. I've been working hard with **Freddie Roach** and I'm excited to show what I've learned and get my frustration of waiting off my chest. I am more motivated than ever to keep my title and prove who is the best in the division."

"I'm excited to get back in the ring and win my fourth world title," said Mares. "I'm 100 percent healthy and ready to go. I'm looking forward to showing that to my fans and the entire audience on December 10. Los Angeles is my town. This is a fight that I've wanted and I'm glad to be giving the fans a great show at the end of the year. Come watch me on December 10 and see what a warrior looks like."

"Camp for me started a month after I defeated Austin Trout," said Charlo. "From that point on, I've been in the gym working and I got my vision corrected, so I'm feeling great. I'm looking forward to putting my clearer vision to the test and I'm so prepared and ready for this fight. This is everything I've ever wanted. It's the best fighting the best. Julian brings an undefeated record to the table and I know he's watched a lot of my past fights because we always knew we would fight one day. So who's the best? We'll find out, but I know I'm ready to rumble."

"I'm excited to get my first title shot, but more than anything I'm just focused on winning," said Williams. "Jermall Charlo is strong and fast, but I will be better than him on December 10. I've been waiting for this fight for the longest time and I know this will be a great night for the fans. I plan on giving them an exciting, explosive fight and most importantly a win."

The action-packed doubleheader features two evenly matched showdowns as all four men, firmly in the top 10 in their division, will enter the ring believing that they will be the one leaving with a belt around their waist. Cuellar and Mares look for supremacy in a crowded featherweight division brimming with contenders while Charlo and Williams each look for a career-defining performance to boost their burgeoning profiles.

"I am elated to be promoting this great night of action for boxing fans around the world," said **Richard Schaefer**, Chairman and CEO of Ringstar Sports. "Both of these fights are 50-50 match-ups with a lot on the line. These are fights that the fans want to see and pose challenges that these fighters are eager to face. They will have a great stage at the Galen Center at USC and on SHOWTIME to prove that they are amongst the best in the world. I couldn't be coming back to the sport with a better fight card and I know that the real winner on December 10 will be the fans."

"We're very excited to present this highly anticipated featherweight world title fight between Jesus Cuellar and Abner Mares," said **Tom Brown**, President of TGB Promotions. "I'm thrilled to work with Richard Schaefer on the debut promotion of Ringstar Sports and look forward to many more world-class collaborative events. I also want to thank **Stephen Espinoza** and the SHOWTIME team along with the Galen Center staff for their help in making what will undoubtedly be an outstanding night of boxing."

"These two world title fights exemplify what SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING has and will continue to deliver - true 'pick-em' fights between top-rated fighters in the prime of their career,," said Stephen Espinoza, Executive Vice President and General Manager, SHOWTIME Sports. "Cuellar vs. Mares is arguably the toughest to predict of the five featherweight world championships we've presented this year. And in Charlo vs. Williams, our latest in a series of significant bouts at 154-pounds, we have a prime example of how great this sport can be. These are major fights between the top players in two of boxing's deepest divisions."

A fast-rising star out of Buenos Aires, Argentina, **Cuellar** is working toward his 12th consecutive victory when he gets in the ring to defend his 126-pound title against Mares. His power in both hands has helped him deliver seven knockouts in his last 10 victories, including an eighth-round knockout of former world champion **Vic Darchinyan** in June 2015. The 29-year-old won his world title with a unanimous decision over **Claudio Marrero** in his U.S. debut in August 2013. He went on to defend his title against **Rico Ramos**, **Juan Manuel Lopez** and **Ruben Tamayo**.

Born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico and fighting out of Huntington Beach, Calif., **Mares** won his first title in 2011 when he beat **Joseph Agbeko** to capture the bantamweight crown. He continued to rise in the pound-for-pound list with victories over **Anselmo Moreno** and **Daniel**

Ponce De Leon to win world titles at super bantamweight and featherweight. The 31-year-old won three straight fights leading to a massive showdown with **Leo Santa Cruz** last August. Mares showed the same explosiveness that made him a multiple-division world champion in a thrilling "Fight of the Year" candidate which he lost by majority decision. The always-exciting Mares will enter the ring for the first time under the tutelage of renowned trainer **Robert Garcia** and strength coach **Luis Garcia** as he seeks to capture another world title.

Twin brother of fellow 154-pound world champion **Jermell**, Jermall Charlo will be making the third defense of the super welterweight crown he won last September with a dominant stoppage over **Cornelius Bundrage**. The 26-year-old is coming off of a career-best, hard-fought decision over crafty former world champion **Austin Trout** in May in Las Vegas. Training with **Ronnie Shields** in Houston, Charlo will look to silence Williams and stake his claim as the best in the division.

One of the most highly regarded young stars in boxing, **Williams, of** Philadelphia, will be getting his first world title opportunity. The 26-year-old has dismantled opponents on his way to accumulating an unbeaten record. Williams solidified his status as a fast-rising star by defeating veterans **Luciano Cuello** and **Arman Ovsepyan** in addition to a shutout victory over contender **Joey Hernandez** in 2015. He earned his No. 1 ranking and title fight by stopping Italy's **Marcello Matano** in the seventh round in March.

For more information visit <u>www.SHO.com/Sports</u> and <u>www.premierboxingchampions.com</u>, follow on Twitter @SHOSports, @PremierBoxing, @JesusCuellarBOX, @AbnerMares, @FutureOfBoxing, @JRockBoxing, @TGBPromotions and @Swanson_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at <u>www.Facebook.com/SHOSports</u> and <u>www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxingChampions</u>. PBC is sponsored by Corona, La Cerveza Mas Fina.

CONTACTS:

Swanson Communications: (202) 783-5500 Tim Smith, Premier Boxing Champions: 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 John Beyrooty BZA/Showtime: (562) 233-7477 Bernie Bahrmasel, TGB Promotions: (773) 592-2986 Hanna Bolte, Bolte Media for Team Mares: (310) 497-5586, @Hannabolte Credentials: www.credentials.bzapr.com/PBC



Undefeated Contender Sergey Lipinets Battles Australia's Lenny Zappavigna in Junior Welterweight World Title Eliminator as Part of Undercard Action Saturday, December 10 from Galen Center at USC in Los Angeles

Plus! Undefeated Rising Prospects Erickson Lubin & Mario Barrios in Action While Local Talent including Hugo Centeno Jr., Josesito Lopez and Adan Mares Enter the Ring

LOS ANGELES (December 10, 2016) – An exciting night of undercard action comes to Los Angeles on Saturday, December 10 and is highlighted by hard-hitting unbeaten contender **Sergey Lipinets** (10-0, 8 KOs) in a 12-round junior welterweight world title eliminator against Australia's **Lenny Zappavigna** (35-2, 25 KOs) from Galen Center at USC.

The December 10 event is headlined by a featherweight world championship showdown between WBA titleholder **Jesus Cuellar** and former three-division world champion **Abner Mares**. The live **SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING**• telecast begins at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT with junior middleweight world champion **Jermall Charlo** taking on undefeated top contender **Julian Williams** in a matchup of undefeated rising stars in their prime.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Ringstar Sports and TGB Promotions, are on sale now and are priced at \$35, \$50, \$75, \$150 and \$200. To purchase tickets go to <u>www.galentix.com</u>.

Also featured as part of the jam-packed night of fights are undefeated rising contenders **Erickson "Hammer" Lubin** (16-0, 11 KOs) in a junior middleweight bout and **Mario Barrios** (16-0, 8 KOs) battling Argentina's **Claudio Rosendo Tapia** (24-18-4, 9 KOs) in junior lightweight action.

An array of talented fighters from the Los-Angeles area round out the evening as Oxnard's **Hugo "The Boss" Centeno Jr.** (24-1, 12 KOs) competes in a middleweight attraction, former title challenger **Josesito Lopez** (33-7, 19 KOs) of Riverside in a six-round welterweight fight and Abner Mares' younger brother, **Adan Mares** (14-1-3, 3 KOs) enters the ring in a lightweight bout.

An accomplished amateur who was born in Kazakhstan but fights out of Russia, **Lipinets** turned pro in April of 2014 with a decision victory over Franklin Varela. The 27-year-old recorded six knockouts in a row before stepping up in competition and impressing with a victory over Haskell

Lydell Rhodes in March 2015 and a knockout of Levan Ghvamichava in March. He kept the momentum going in July when he stopped established contender Walter Castillo in the seventh round. He will challenge the 29-year-old Zappavigna out of New South Wales, Australia. He enters this fight the winner of his last 10 contests, including his most recent triumph, a sixth-round stoppage of lk Yang in July.

A highly regarded prospect with an exciting style, the 21-year-old **Lubin** burst onto the scene looking to finish opponents early as he cements his status as an elite contender. Fighting out of Orlando, he has already taken down experienced veterans including Orlando Lora, Ayi Bruce, Michael Finney and Norberto Gonzalez. He was sensational in November 2015 when he knocked out Alexis Camacho and in January he headlined his first card and dominated Jose De Jesus Macias in his first 10-round bout. He has kept the hot streak going in June by stopping veteran Daniel Sandoval in the third round and dominating veteran Ivan Montero in July.

A tall junior lightweight at more than six feet, the 21-year-old **Barrios** picked up seven victories in a jam-packed 2015 in which he stopped five opponents inside the distance, including an uppercut left hook combo that ended the night for Manuel Vides last December. The San Antonio-native turned pro in 2013 and is on the fast track towards a world title shot as he most recently defeated Devis Boschiero in a title eliminator in July. Now he looks to stay unbeaten in a matchup against Tapia out of Mendoza, Argentina.

For more information visit <u>www.SHO.com/Sports</u> and <u>www.premierboxingchampions.com</u>, follow on Twitter @ShowtimeBoxing, @SHOSports, @PremierBoxing, @JesusCuellarBOX, @AbnerMares, @FutureOfBoxing, @JRockBoxing, @TGBPromotions and @Swanson_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at <u>www.Facebook.com/SHOSports</u> and <u>www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxingChampions. PBC is sponsored by Corona, La Cerveza Mas Fina.</u>

CONTACTS:

Swanson Communications: (202) 783-5500 Tim Smith, Premier Boxing Champions: 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 John Beyrooty BZA/Showtime: (562) 233-7477 Bernie Bahrmasel, TGB Promotions: (773) 592-2986 Hanna Bolte, Bolte Media for Team Mares: (310) 497-5586, @Hannabolte Credentials: www.credentials.bzapr.com/PBC



DECEMBER 10, 2016 GALEN CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BLUE CORNER

<u>MAIN EVENT</u> <u>WBA FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT – 12 ROUNDS</u>

Jesus CUELLAR Buenos Aires, ARG 28-1 (21 KOs)

Jermall CHARLO Houston, TX 24-0 (18 KOs)

Sergey LIPINETS Moscow, RUS 10-0 (8 KOs)

Erickson LUBIN Orland, FL 16-0 (11 KOs)

Mario BARRIOS San Antonio, TX 16-0 (8 KOs)

Hugo CENTENO, JR. Oxnard, CA 24-1 (12 KOs)

Josesito LOPEZ Riverside, CA 33-7 (19 KOs)

Adan MARES Guadalajara, MEX 14-1-3 (3 KOs) vs.

<u>IBF JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT– 12 ROUNDS</u> vs.

IBF JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT ELIMINATION BOUT- 12 ROUNDS vs.

> MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT- 8/10 ROUNDS vs.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT BOUT- 8/10 ROUNDS vs.

<u>SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT– 8/10 ROUNDS</u> vs.

> <u>WELTERWEIGHT BOUT- 6 ROUNDS</u> vs.

LIGHTWEIGHT BOUT- 4/6 ROUNDS vs. RED CORNER

Abner MARES Guadalajara, MEX 29-2-1 (15 KOs)

Julian WILLIAMS Philadelphia, PA 22-0-1 (14 KOs)

Lenny ZAPPAVIGNA New South Wales, AUS 35-2 (25 KOs)

Juan CABRERA Santo Domingo, DR 23-1 (16 KOs)

Claudio Rosendo TAPIA Mendoza, ARG 24-18-4 (9 KOs)

Ronald MONTES Barranquilla, COL 17-4 (15 KOs)

Todd MANUEL Crowley, LA 12-11-1 (1 KO)

Evincii DIXON Lancaster, PA 7-15-1 (2 KOs)

(Bout Card and Order Subject to Change) Last Updated: 12/2/16 8:19 AM

JESUS CUELLAR

QUICK FACTS

- Full Name Jesus Marcelo Andres Cuellar
- Height 5-6
- Weight 126 (Featherweight)
- Date of Birth December 28, 1986
- Hometown Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Record 28-1 (21 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- One of eight brothers and sisters
- Started boxing at age 6 and had his first exhibition at age 10

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in June 2008 with first round TKO over Cristian Gimenez
- Delivered knockouts in nine of his first 10 fights
- Made his U.S. debut in Aug. 2013 by winning a world title via unanimous decision over Claudio Marrero
- Currently on a nine fight win streak
- Defeated Rico Ramos by decision and Juan Manuel Lopez and Miguel Tamayo by knockout in 2014
- Started 2015 with an eighth-round knockout over former world champion Vic Darchinyan to be elevated to full world champion and defended his title successfully against Jonathan Oquendo in December

AMATEUR CAREER

- 230-10 amateur record
- 2006 South American Games gold medalist
- 2005 Pan American Championships bronze medalist

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Twitter** @JesusCuellarBOX
- Facebook Facebook.com/jesusforasterocuellar

ABNER MARES

QUICK FACTS

- Full Name Abner Mares Martinez
- Height 5-5
- Weight 126 (Featherweight)
- Date of Birth November 28, 1985
- Hometown Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico
- **Record** 29-2-1, (15 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- One of 11 brothers
- Began boxing at age seven, his father fought professionally

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in January 2005 with a second-round TKO over Luis Malave
- In 2010, fought to a draw with Yonnhy Perez in his first world title fight
- Defeated Joseph Agbeko in 2011 for the IBF Bantamweight World Title
- Defeated Erik Morel in 2012 to win the WBC Super Bantamweight World Title
- Defeated Daniel Ponce De Leon in 2013 tow in the WBC Featherweight World Title
- Suffered his first loss to Jhonny Gonzalez in 2013, but has bounced back beating Jonathan Oquendo and Jose Ramirez since
- Defeated Arturo Santos Reyes in 2015 before dropping a close and thrilling contest to unbeaten Leo Santa Cruz

AMATEUR CAREER

- 112-8 amateur record
- 2004 Mexican Olympian
- 2004 World Junior Championships Silver Medalist
- 2003 Pan American Games Silver Medalist
- 2002 Central American & Caribbean Games Gold Medalist
- 2002 World Cadet Championships Gold Medalist

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Twitter @AbnerMares
- Instagram AbnerMares
- Facebook Facebook.com/Abner.Mares1

JERMALL CHARLO

QUICK FACTS

- Full Name Jermall Charlo
- **Height** 6-0
- Weight 154 (Super Welterweight)
- Date of Birth May 19, 1990
- Hometown Houston, Texas
- **Record** 24-0 (18 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- Identical twin brother Jermell is also a 154-pound world champion
- Born one minute before Jermell
- Started boxing at eight years old and his father fought in amateurs

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in September 2008 with stoppage of Cimarron Davis
- Recorded 14 straight stoppage victories in between 2010-2014
- Stopped experience contenders Orlando Lora, Luis Hernandez and Antwone Smith in 2013
- Defeated Norberto Gonzalez, Hector Munoz and Lenny Bottai in 2014
- Shutout Michael Finney over 10 rounds in March 2015
- Won world title with dominant stoppage of Cornelius Bundrage in September 2015 and defended it in November by knocking out Wilky Campfort
- Defeated former world champion Austin Trout by unanimous decision in May 2015 title defense

AMATEUR EXPERIENCE

• 69-6 amateur record

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Twitter** @FutureOfBoxing
- Instagram FutureOfBoxing

JULIAN WILLIAMS

QUICK FACTS

- Full Name Julian Williams
- Nickname J-Rock
- **Height** 5-11
- Weight 154 (Super Welterweight)
- Date of Birth April 5, 1990
- Hometown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- **Record** 22-0-1 (14 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- Began boxing at age 12
- Took in at young age from being homeless by trainer Kenny Mason

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in May 2010 with first round stoppage of Antonio Fernandez
- Seven of first 12 wins came by stoppage
- Won his first eight-rounder in April 2012 with decision over Hector Rosario
- In 2013 picked up victories over Jermiah Wiggins, Dashon Johnson, Joachim Alcine and Orlando Lora
- Defeated veteran Freddy Hernandez by stoppage in March 2014
- Beat previously unbeaten Eliezer Gonzalez by decision in September 2014
- Defeated experienced contenders Joey Hernandez, Luciano Cuello and Arman Ovsepyan in 2015
- Earned top spot amongst 154-pound contenders with stoppage of Marcello Matano in March 2016

AMATEUR CAREER

- 75-10 record
- 2009 & 2006 Philadelphia Golden Gloves Champion
- 2006 National Golden Gloves Bronze medalist
- 2006 Junior Olympics regional champion
- 2005 Silver Gloves regional champion

SOCIAL MEDIA

• Twitter - @JRockBoxing