Hopefuls are Coming to Empire PBS in September

Hopefuls is a new 4 part series produced by Empire PBS. Hopefuls follows the powerful community-building work of youth boxing and afterschool program Project Fighting Chance. Led by Coach Ian Franklin, three of the program’s top boxers: “Terrible” Terry Washington, “Killer” Kenny Lobatoz, and Charles “Lolo” Harris navigate between the ring and the streets on their journey to Olympic gold.

Ian Franklin, CEO and Founder of Project Fighting Chance describes San Bernardino as a challenged city—one that is economically challenged, with a violent criminal reality threatening to become a generational contagion. Others remember San Bernardino differently when reflecting about the 60’s and 70’s, that it was once a vibrant city, filled with orange groves and a thriving community. It was an All-American City.

Franklin is also the Head boxing coach for this youth amateur boxing program. It started as the “F.I.G.H.T.S.” program which stands for faith in God with troubled souls, and grew into a Pro-Fight Chapter (PFC). But it really started in Franklin’s backyard, well actually in his garage. Ian’s son, Malcom who was small in stature and was picked on as a kid would ask his dad to teach him how to box so that he could defend himself. He was bullied at school and wanted to find a way to make it stop. “I wanted to learn how to defend myself,” stated Malcom.

So, Franklin purchased a bag and gloves and setup the garage like a gym. This was the beginning of the program. Soon neighborhood kids started coming to the garage. Franklin bought more bags for more kids to participate. A local newspaper ran a story, Franklin’s church got involved and they moved from his garage to the church for their sparring time. They stayed at the church for a while and then a building near the church became available.

Since the early days PFC has produced 8 national champions. They were the only club in California to attend the Olympic trials in 2007 and 2011. According to Franklin and his team, boxing is a great sport to build confidence, to learn discipline, to understand what makes a person tick, and how to achieve success outside the ring.

It’s been nearly 20 years since Project Fighting Chance began and there’s a new group of kids who are chasing Gold. This is their story.

Hopefuls will introduce you to three young boys who want to become champions. Kenny, Lolo and Terry. They have the drive and determination to be in the ring. But there’s more to Project Fighting Chance than just boxing, it’s about supporting the whole child. It’s about getting them off the streets and introducing them to a different environment. It’s providing the kids with a support system that they can count on, whether it’s transportation needs or help with academics. Franklin and his team of leaders are there to support the boys including with their “Books before Hooks” philosophy. This series follows the boys, their training, their education and their growth into Olympic hopefuls.

Hopefuls will air on Empire PBS on Thursdays at 8pm beginning September 27th.
FM News Issues and Programs from Jul 20 - Aug 17, 2018
Segments with IE Economist John Husing & IE Journalist Cassie MacDuff are part of our weekly news.

• FIRE, FIRE AND MORE FIRE – The Forest Service issued a statement saying that while progress has been made controlling smoldering fuels, reinforcing fire lines, restoring power, and clearing and reopening roads—preparations must begin immediately before the first major rain storms. Thanks in large part to rainy, humid weather in the mountains, the Valley Fire’s size and containment have remained the same and little to no fire growth is projected.

• ARSON – The Riverside County District Attorney’s office has filed multiple charges against the man suspected of starting the Cranston Fire that could send him to prison for life.

• IMMIGRATION – Immigration is a big issue in the 8th Congressional District, as it is home to a detention center in Victorville where immigrants crossing the southern border illegally are being detained.

• ALMOND HARVEST – California almond growers are likely to see their largest-ever harvest. But their second-largest importer—China—imposed a 50 percent tariff on their product.

• PAST DUE FEES – The Riverside County Board of Supervisors have signed off on a plan by county officials to actively pursue overdue trash collection and fire mitigation fees owed by thousands of residents and businesses in unincorporated areas of the county.

• FROGS – A team of scientists and conservationists released more than 250 endangered frogs back into their native habitat in the San Bernardino National Forest.

• WILD BURRO – Riverside County Animal Services attempted to capture and give veterinary treatment to a wild burro in Reche Canyon who was shot with an arrow and injured.

• POLITICS – The San Bernardino City Council has chosen not to respond to a letter from the White House requesting its support for President Trump’s latest Supreme Court pick.

• GROUND BREAKING – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians held a ground-breaking ceremony for an expansion to their casino, which includes a new hotel and concert venue.

• JOSHUA TREE – The high desert town of Joshua Tree has always attracted artists and solitaries, but is now being transformed by a new wave of tourists, festivals and pricey housing.

• AFFORDABLE HOUSING – A new report shows rent is increasing in the Inland Empire by about 2 to 3% per year.
**The Miniaturist** – See what happens when a teen bride’s new husband gives her an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet that is a miniature replica of their home-and seems to predict and unravel the future with unsettling precision. **Mondays beginning Sept. 17 at 9:00pm**

**Amanpour and Company** – Christiane Amanpour leads wide-ranging, in-depth conversations with global thought leaders and cultural influencers on the issues and trends impacting the world each day, from politics, business and technology to arts, science and sports. **Weeknights beginning September 17 at 10:00pm**

**Wonders of Mexico** – Travel south along Mexico’s mountain spine, explore the tropical forests of the Maya, and journey across the deserts of northern Mexico to discover its amazing wildlife and culture. **Tuesdays beginning September 18 at 9:00pm**

**Neil Diamond: Hot August Night** – It’s Neil Diamond’s triumphant return to the legendary Greek Theatre in Los Angeles in August 2012. This magical evening celebrates the 40th anniversary of the original multiplatinum-selling Hot August Night collection that was recorded at the very same venue in 1972. **Saturday, September 22 at 8:00 pm**

**Sweden: Lessons for America** – It’s been suggested that Americans would be better off if the United States was more like Sweden. Do Swedes know something we don’t? Join Swedish native and scholar Johan Norberg as he explores his homeland’s economic and social landscape in Sweden: Lessons for America? The lessons to be learned from Sweden may not be the ones you expect. **Friday, September 28 at 11:00 pm**
THE SENSORY SUNDAY AWARENESS PROJECT

We were proud to cover and participate in the Sensory Sunday Awareness Project Association (SSAP) kick-off event at Just Play Adventure Park in Fontana. Families with children of all ages and disabilities were invited. The kids were able to enjoy the indoor amusement park, get information from a wide range of vendors, and take photos with the Chip the bear who sported his Empire PBS tee for the occasion. The SSAP is a group comprised of local business organizations, leaders and individuals dedicated to furthering awareness of kids with disabilities. This event will be held the second Sunday of every month at different “fun zones” in the Inland Empire.

EMPIRE KIDS – Empire PBS has plans to launch a kids club program centered on education and, especially reading. We are helping to make reading engaging for our viewers, including a kid-friendly mascot to serve as the program’s figurehead. This raccoon was pitched to our online audience and won out the popular vote amongst four others. It was one of our most successful posts in terms of viewer participation. We hope to develop this character further for on-air as well as online and print media.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Empire Network also strengthened the burgeoning relationships with Building Industry Association (BIA), California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC), and San Bernardino County Economic Development focused on addressing the shortage of skilled labor in SB by partnering on developing programming to inspire viewers to get either free training at EDCT or enroll in SBVC for construction and manufacturing related classes. The programming is currently and tentatively entitled ‘EMPIRE BUILDERS’.

Additionally, Development sat down with Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) Chief Operations Officer to discuss ways to distill important public information to SB and Riverside county residents. And lastly, the Empire met with Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services marketing SVP on supporting the stations Empire Kids Initiative.
ON FNX IN SEPTEMBER

**Telling the Truth about California Missions**
This 23-minute educational, non-fiction film examines the true history of California's Spanish missions and reveals little known facts about mission founder Junipero Serra, the punishments inflicted on Native Americans that were essentially used as a slave labor force after they were converted to Christianity. This film has been reviewed and approved by 4th grade teachers around the state, and is already being used in several classrooms. **September 2 at 5:00pm**

**The Price of the Prize** – This is a documentary by Canadian filmmaker Brandy Yanchyk about the First Nations fight to end grizzly bear trophy hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia. The film follows the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo Xa’ixais and Gitga’at First Nations as they enforce their ban on trophy hunting through the presence of Coastal Guardian Watchmen. **Sunday, September 9 at 5:00pm**

**Tears of our Ancestors: Healing From Historical Trauma** – What is historical trauma? Where does it come from? How have events in California history impacted generations of California Natives? This half-hour film explores and answers these questions and more. Tribal Psychiatrist Dr. Donna Schindler and Native Californians dive deeply into this topic with an eye toward the healing process. **September 16 at 5:00pm**

**CO-PRODUCTION PROJECT**
A co-production with NAJA and NAHJ that included interviews with a Mayan Dancer from Belize and a Jamaican woman whose granddaughter is learning traditional Mexican/Mesoamerican Dance were co-produced by Frank Blanquet and NAJA fellowship recipient Melissa Ellis from the Chickasaw Nation. The segment will be featured on the FNX series Wassaja. The NAHJ portion of the co-production was an article by Raine Roldan that was published in the Latino Reporter and featured quotes from Blanquet and Tara Chadwick. **Link: http://latinoreporter.org/2018/that-is-what-sets-us-apart-maya-immigrants-say-their-identity-doesnt-fit-in-any-box/**
NATIVE AMERICAN MEDIA

This year’s conference was co-hosted by the Native American Journalist Association (NAJA) and The National Association of Hispanic Journalists (HAHJ). FNX Producer/Director, Frank Blanquet served as a journalism mentor for a second year alongside FNX affiliates CATV-47 (Cheyenne Arapaho) and guest speaker Regan Jacobs (Akwesasne TV). The mentorship program is part of the Native American Journalism Fellowships (NAJF) awarded by NAJA. Segments produced by students included two pieces about the Farm Bill, a segment about a Pool Tournament aimed to raise funds for the NAJF program, a memoir by a Seminole Fellowship Award’s recipient, a look at the NAJA Fundraiser and Awards Ceremony and a segment about TSA Agents not recognizing a tribal ID as a valid form of identification. Segments are packaged for national broadcast as part of the FNX NOW series.

GRAND PERFORMANCES – FNX covered three more concerts featuring Native and world indigenous artists at Grand Performances in downtown Los Angeles.

~ Hip Hop/Electronic: Indigenous Music & Dance featured Canadian indigenous artists Classic Roots (Anishinaabe/traditional music/electric), Cody Coyote (Matachewan influenced hip-hop) and Natasha Fisher (Ojibway/Aboriginal-influenced electronic pop R & B) with Native American artist Nakotah Larance (Hopi, Tewa and Assiniboine/Hoop Dance).

~ Fuzon | Disco Fuzon: A popular Pakistani fusion rock group gave us two wholly different performances in two totally different styles, beginning with their blend of Pop-rock and Sufi-rock, and ending the night with a flavor of Pakistani disco.

~ Dayramir Gonzalez & Habana enTRANCe: The Grand Concourse with Special Guest Candi Sosa: The infectious smile of Dayramir can be felt in the upbeat rhythm of his Afro-Cuban jazz. We spoke with him about his journey to bring music education of all kinds to children in his homeland of Cuba, his adopted home of America, and across the globe.

STUDIO 49

This is our in-studio music show that spotlights native musicians and singers. Upcoming episodes will feature native artists Lakota John, Raye Zaragoza, and QVLN. FNX favorites, The Miracle Dolls were recently in the FNX studio to record a new set to be featured on Studio 49 which will include our new studio set backdrop. Cody Coyote shares his story with us in a heartfelt and powerful episode of Studio 49 that is nearing completion and will be on the air in the coming weeks.