



MEDIA ALERTINVITE TO COVER***MEDIA ALERT***

**Emmy-Nominated Actor and Producer Michael K. Williams to Speak at
Boys' Club of New York's annual I AM A MAN Conference
Additional Event Panelists & Moderator:**

Dominic Dupont, Dana Rachlin, Charlie A. Vargas, Sergio De La Mota, Aron Gadson, Eric K. Thomas

EAST HARLEM, NEW YORK—The Boys' Club of New York is thrilled to host its annual I AM A MAN Conference featuring Emmy-nominated Actor and Producer Michael K. Williams (best known from HBO's *The Wire*). This event, which explores the identity, masculinity, and empowerment of self-identifying young men of color, targets teens and young men in 7th grade and up as well as community leaders and activists interested in becoming more informed, engaged, and active citizens. Through the lens of the moving documentary *Raised in the System*, speakers will unpack the criminalization of adolescent behavior and engage new methods and responses to Black and Brown youth who have been adversely impacted by the juvenile justice system.

Alongside Williams, esteemed event panelists include Dominic Dupont, community activist and leader, who is featured in *Raised in the System* and serves as director of Making Kids Win; Dana Rachlin, founder and president, NYC Together; Charlie A. Vargas, attorney and professor; Sergeant Sergio De La Mota, NYPD; and Aron Gadson, entrepreneur, public speaker, and author of *You Already Won*. The event will be moderated by Eric K. Thomas, the founder and editor-in-chief of *The Quintessential Gentleman* media platform. A special guest appearance will be made by Rapper and Activist Mysonne ("The N.Y. General").

"Whenever our boys can learn from role models who not only look them, but who are also genuinely concerned about their well-fare, it can make a tremendous difference," said Carlos Velazquez, BCNY's Chief Program Officer. "We applaud those leaders who are willing to take the time to share their life experiences, because it further empowers our boys and young men to learn, grow, connect, and be inspired to take charge of their own lives."

WHAT: The Boy's Club of New York (BCNY) will host annual I AM A MAN Conference

WHEN: Saturday, May 4, 2019
11:00am breakfast for breakfast; followed by 12noon screening and panel discussion

WHERE: Gerry Clubhouse: 321 East 111th Street, New York, NY (betwn. 1st & 2nd Avenues)

MEDIA CONTACT: Shonda Smith, BCNY's Director of Communications
347.505.5416 | shonda.smith@bcny.org

WEBSITE: BCNY.org

SOCIAL: BCNY on Facebook: [@BoysClubNewYork](https://www.facebook.com/BoysClubNewYork)
BCNY on Instagram: [@boysclubny](https://www.instagram.com/boysclubny)
BCNY on Twitter: [@BoysClubNY](https://twitter.com/BoysClubNY)

ABOUT: Founded in 1876, the mission of the Boys' Club of New York is to empower boys and young men by providing effective programs and a supportive community. BCNY accomplishes this by offering programs in music and arts, social and recreational activities, mentoring, academic support, and athletics. We deliver enriching afterschool programs to hundreds of boys each day at our three clubhouse locations in East Harlem, Flushing, and the Lower East Side for just \$5 a year. Any boy—age 7 to 21—can join, regardless of zip code, school, immigrations status, or family income.

###