Ringside feats: Brittany Rogers is the nation’s youngest boxing promoter

Philadelphia is rich with boxing lore. It is home to legendary fighters such as Sonny Liston and Jack O’Brien, and venues including the Legendary Blue Horizon and Joe Frazier’s Gym—not to mention being home base for Hollywood’s sparring underdog, Rocky Balboa. And in September 2011, Brittany Rogers, ’12, became the nation’s youngest boxing promoter at age 22, when she arranged a packed fight night attended by 1,200 people at the National Guard Armory in Northeast Philadelphia.

Rogers—who retains her “youngest” title at 23—is president of her own company, Bam Boxing Promotions, which contracts fighters, plans fight lineups and secures venues. “A boxing promoter more or less plans the entire event from start to finish,” she said.

Rogers’s passion for boxing began at home, in Philadelphia’s Frankford neighborhood. Her father, an amateur boxer named Mike, regaled her with tales of the city’s boxing history. Inspired by her father’s stories, Rogers trained to become a boxer herself after high school. But the self-identified “daddy’s girl” says she stopped training when her father asked her to find a way to express her passion for the sport outside the ring.

As a student, Rogers interned at Philadelphia’s famed Blue Horizon boxing venue and with Peltz Boxing Promotions, run by noted promoter Russell Peltz, SMC ’68.

Rogers is committed to keeping the tradition of boxing alive in Philadelphia, despite the fact that its two primary venues—Blue Horizon and Asylum Arena—are currently under renovation with no definite plans to host boxing matches when they reopen. “I could go to New Jersey and promote,” she said, “but I’d rather stay in Philadelphia and look for new venues.” Boxing, she believes, is not just a part of the city’s past—it is a part of its future. She is determined to be a big part of it.

– Alix Gerz

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