

# "The Inner Ring" reveals shocking insight during Mike Tyson's reign as champion

By W.G. Ramirez  
Sentinel-Voice

Spanning almost six years, Rudy Gonzalez takes readers on an unforgettable trip behind the scenes of Mike Tyson's empire, serving as chauffeur and confidant for the former undisputed heavyweight champion.

Gonzalez met the newly-crowned champ in November of 1988 on his first job as a part-time limousine driver, and was soon hired after that, adding the duties of personal aide and bodyguard along the way.

According to Gonzalez, in the book, he "had no idea what it was like to smell and taste such enormous wealth and power. ... I realized a few lucky people enjoyed a level of wealth and power far beyond my imagination."

The book, titled "The Inner Ring," depicts Gonzalez's view of how he believes Don King manipulated Tyson into his "Kingdom of Darkness," and took over total control of every aspect of his life with help from Rory Holloway and John Horne.

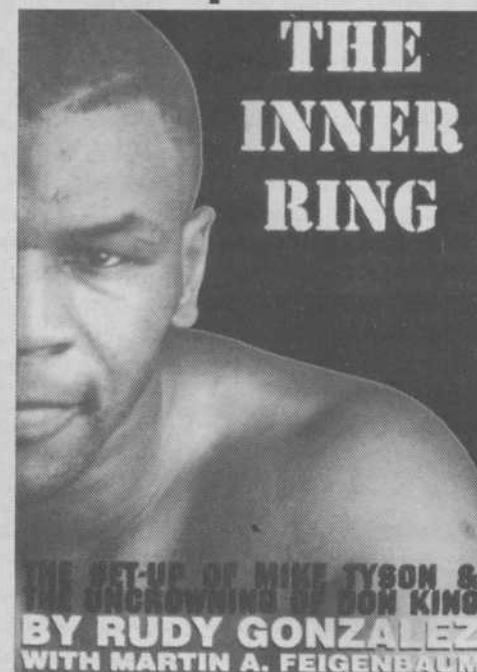
In the book, readers learn that Gonzalez was the only person that remained with Tyson around the clock during their 5-1/2-year relationship, except for one certain trip to Indianapolis, Indiana.

"If I had been allowed to do my job, instead of being kicked off the flight to Indianapolis," writes Gonzalez, with the aide of Miami attorney Martin A. Feigenbaum, "I would have been in Room 606 of the Canterbury Hotel while Tyson had sex with Desiree Washington. I also would have escorted Washington, not only downstairs to the waiting limousine, but also back to her own hotel room. For many years, a fundamental part of my duties for MT was to make women feel special after having sex with Tyson. MT got an 'F' in bedside manner, but he wasn't a rapist."

"The Inner Ring" also implies King and his family systematically "ripped off" Tyson for millions



FRONT ROW PHOTOS  
After Mike Tyson was released from prison in March, he announced that Rory Holloway (l.) and John Horne would remain his co-managers.



of dollars and may have even helped set him up in Indianapolis.

"Rudy, I can't read, man," Gonzalez writes, recalling when Tyson revealed his handicap for the first time. "All I do is keep signing. I'm tired of signing."

"There were no invoices attached to this (\$100,000) check, only a memorandum stapled to it saying 'just sign and return.' ... Tyson was boiling. 'Don King is stealing from me!'"

Gonzalez relates back to the early years with Tyson, when the 20-year-old fighting machine enjoyed his popularity around the women, including: sex-dates "in the back of the limousine" with one supermodel; a "nice relationship" with a former Miss America; and the start-to-finish encounter with actress Robin Givens.

According to Gonzalez, he was "supposed to be close by at all times, even while (Tyson) was

having sex. I wasn't into voyeurism, but (former Tyson co-managers Jim) Jacobs and (Bill) Cayton explained that unfortunately the truth was whatever a judge or jury believed, not necessarily what really happened.... I must have been in depositions half a dozen times to testify about what I witnessed between Mike and groupie sex."

Gonzalez, a Spanish Harlem native, also recalls an incident with Tyson and Givens that he describes as the one "which turned out to be their biggest ever."

"His wife had overstepped one boundary she could never cross, no matter how much he was in love with her. He never lost sight of who he was or where he came from."

A "planned party for all of his friends from (his) old Brownsville neighborhood" prompted a feud between the couple, which sent their marriage into a whirlwind.

There are several times in the book that Gonzalez writes about Tyson's concern for issues pertaining to African-American youth.

"Mike Tyson was very concerned about the living conditions of black people in this country, especially the children, and wanted to do something

about it. ... It was easy to see that Mike Tyson cared about all types of people. ... Mike Tyson had friends from all colors, races and religions. He couldn't be prejudiced because his personal experience had taught him that racism was, if anything, just plain foolish."

Gonzalez continues to say, "Things were about to happen which would break Mike Tyson down and lead him astray, so much so, that he turned his back on these experiences and friendships that had pulled him from the ghetto and made him a world-championship boxer."

The chapter titled "Bait and Switch" introduces the readers to Tyson's relationship with Holloway and Horne. They "stuck to Mike Tyson like he was their personal life-support equipment."

"It seemed like everything was a racial issue ... continuously pounding Mike Tyson with a 'black rap.'"

"While Don King battled with Bill Cayton for control of the fighter, Horne and Holloway replugged Tyson into 'the street' where crime and violence were glorified."

Sensing Tyson would remain under the direction  
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## Tyson answers questions, (most of them), for the first time since his prison-release

By W.G. Ramirez  
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For the first time since being released from prison on March 25, Mike Tyson fielded questions Wednesday afternoon from a media-packed Hollywood Theatre at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino.

Don King announced that Tyson will face Irishman Peter McNeeley on Aug., 19, returning to the ring for the first time in four years.

The fight will take place in the MGM Grand Garden, in what will be the first of a six-fight marriage between the world's largest hotel and world's most celebrated fighter.

"I feel great, look great," said Tyson, who has been training since the middle of April in Orwell, Ohio. "I haven't felt any ill-effects of the four years (out of the ring). ... I feel like I can fight the champ now."

With a championship bout distanced in front of him, Tyson's lucrative comeback will begin with McNeeley.

"I'd like to thank Mike Tyson and his camp for choosing me as his first fight," said the 6-2, 220-pound McNeeley (36-1, 30 KOs). "I watched him going through high school and college, so it is a big thrill for me to have this opportunity."

Although Tyson doesn't know much about McNeeley, he said if there was one thing he was adding to his strategy, it would be to start watching films of any upcoming opponents.

"Out of my whole career," said Tyson (41-1, 36 KOs), "I never watched films on anyone I've fought. I think I'm gonna make an exception for this one. I've come to the conclusion, the best way to know the opponent is to study them."

Tyson explained that because he grew up in a gym as a youngster, he felt no different returning to the speed bags and sweltering training habits that molded him into the undisputed heavyweight champion in 1987.

"It's just (like) I took a couple of months off and went into the

gym."

Flanked by longtime friends and co-managers Rory Holloway and John Horne, the World Boxing Council's No. 1-ranked contender talked briefly about many issues, including: his future, his critics, his fellow heavyweight contenders, and, only when he brought it up, his new-found Islamic religion.

"I'm not in the position to judge anyone on their particular skills," said Tyson, when asked to comment on the heavyweight division. "We're all out here trying our best. We're in a career which is very difficult. Whatever falls upon us, falls upon us in the name of Allah."

Although Tyson fluently spoke of Allah in his responses to reporters, he visibly became annoyed when the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, Nevada's only African-American newspaper, asked him how his religion has helped motivate him to regain the undisputed heavyweight championship.

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