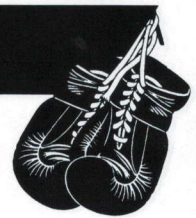
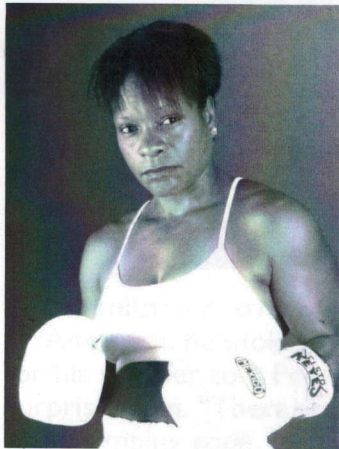




Ring 44 Inductee



“DOWNTOWN” LEONA BROWN



Dynamic 4'11" Leona Brown was born in Buffalo on July 27, 1960 and fought out of Pawling, NY. Leona quickly achieved prominence as a professional boxer after getting into the ring at age 37.

The relentless infighter and body puncher took the amateur women's 119 title at the 70th New York Golden Gloves tournament. She then took the silver medal in the 119-lb division at the first UD National Amateur Championships in Augusta, GA in 1997 losing a 4-1 decision.

Brown proceeded to win her first seven fights as a professional, two by knockout, including her first world title. On September 11, 1998, at the Tropicana Hotel, Leona faced Katie Burton (5'7", 121 lbs) of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada for the IWBF Super Bantamweight title, winning by unanimous ten round decision. In her eighth professional bout, fought on June 11, 1999, she lost her world title, losing a ten round decision to IFBA champion Eva Jones.

On October 1, 1999 Leona became a world champion for the second time when she knocked out Dee Dufoe in a ten round bout to become the IFBA's world Super Bantamweight champion.

That short success was followed by defeat and disappointment, however, as she lost seven out of her next eight bouts, beginning with a world title unification against WIBF Super Bantamweight champion Michelle Aboro. Brown lost a ten round decision.

After defeating Reness Richardt, she was given another chance at the WIBF Super Bantamweight title where she dropped a ten round decision to Esther Schouten in Austria.

“Downtown” was given yet another opportunity in 2004 for a world title when she took on Stepahney George of Ghana for the WIBC Bantamweight belt. Brown won a world title in a second division and third belt overall when she beat George by unanimous shutout ten round decision.

In May of 2005 Leona lost a decision for the inaugural WBC Super Bantamweight title against Jackie Nava in Mexico

Ring 44 is proud to honor “Downtown” Leona Brown as the first women boxer in their Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.

