

## In the News: GOSO Sponsors John Leguizamo's Second Appearance on Rikers Island

**July 23, 2012, Rikers Island:** GOSO sponsored the second visit and performance on Rikers Island of the actor/comedian John Leguizamo. Mr. Leguizamo first visited Rikers Island more than three years ago when he met individually and with small groups of students at Horizon Academy (now East River Academy) to share with them their future hopes and dreams. Mr. Leguizamo followed his visit to the school with a short presentation for inmates in the gymnasium that had them doubled over with laughter as he described his life and acting career.

The success of that initial visit inspired him to approach Mark Goldmith, President and CEO of Getting Out and Staying Out, about returning to Rikers Island for an encore visit. That visit included not only individual meetings with inmates, but a performance of the first act of his latest Broadway show, "Ghetto Clown" in the George Motchen Detention Center auditorium. Mr. Leguizamo performed for a packed house that included many GOSO participants and was filmed by a 22-person crew assembled by producer and director Elena Engel. Ms. Engel is currently producing a documentary on reducing recidivism that will include not only footage from Mr. Leguizamo's visit, but also subsequent interviews with GOSO students of East River Academy.



PHOTO BY TONY HARDMAN

John Leguizamo performing Act One of "Ghetto Clowns" for inmates at Rikers Island.

Mr. Leguizamo has had a thirty-year career in stage and screen that includes notable performances in "Hangin' with the Homeboys", "Carlito's Way", "Executive Decision", and "Ice Age". GOSO has been blessed in having him as true friend and supporter who is working with us to help make a difference in the lives of young, justice-involved men.



PHOTO BY TONY HARDMAN