

**Activating  
reform against  
corruption in  
foster care.**



# Foster Boy

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY DECK

*FOSTER  
BOY*

# **Foster Boy: Fostering Awareness & Action**

**Foster Care:** A national crisis hiding in plain sight, but soon to get powerful nationwide attention via a unique vehicle - the film Foster Boy.

As portrayed by rising star Shane Paul McGhie, Jamal's story is harrowing but not uncommon; McGhie's performance reflects the reality of a broken system now and being experienced by thousands of kids, African Americans in particular.

**Labor of Love:** The film was largely self-financed. Actors, crew and producers, including NBA legend and foster care advocate Shaquille O'Neal are passionate about telling this story. The film was supported and advised by leading foster care advocates and non-profits.

**An inflection point of action & reform.**

# The Film

# Foster Boy: The Story

Michael Trainer is a lawyer at the center of a trial in which a for-profit foster care agency is accused of putting a known sex offender into the same foster home as his young client Jamal, with catastrophic results. Michael, a successful litigator with a long career protecting corporate interests, at first wants nothing to do with Jamal's case, until a judge forces him to accept it. Initially he sees Jamal as a kid off the street looking to grab a piece of corporate profits. But when Jamal refuses to settle the case for any amount of money, Michael begins his representation in earnest. As their work together reveals the horrifying depth of the corrupt and abusive for-profit foster care agency, Michael is transformed from cynical skeptic to fierce warrior in the pursuit of justice.

**Country:** USA

**Language:** English

**Directed by** Youssef Delara

**109 minutes**

[VIEW THE FILM IMDb PAGE](#)

[VIEW THE FILM WEBSITE](#)

# The Synopsis

**SHAQUILLE O'NEAL  
PRESENTS**

# FOSTER BOY

**A pulse-pounding cinematic legal drama that activates  
reform against corruption in foster care.**

**WATCH THE TRAILER**



# **Foster Care: A Matter of Basic Civil Rights**

In the US, thousands of foster youth are frequently revictimized while in the system, after being originally neglected and abused. They are voiceless and invisible, transitory and mostly unrepresented. They do not cast a shadow economically or politically. As a result, they are in no position to advocate for their own rights.

A system designed to protect them is often badly broken and too often goes unchallenged. Our shared failure to protect and support these kids means they often face harrowing, unsafe situations and lack the encouragement, role modeling, life skills, love and confidence necessary to become safe, productive adults and break the cycle of hopelessness.

**Each of us needs to learn more,  
reach out, and demand reform  
of this broken system.**

**#FixFosterCare**

# The System

A young child's face is visible in the lower right portion of the image, peering over a ledge. The child's eyes are looking towards the left. The background is dark and textured, suggesting an indoor setting like a window or a door frame.

**“The very agencies charged with and paid to keep foster children safe too often failed to provide even the most basic protections, or to take steps to prevent the occurrence of tragedies.” –US SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Foster Boy is based on true events - it is about courage, an unlikely friendship and a tireless search for justice, and it shines a bright light on the very real abuses in the for-profit segment of the foster care system, widely recognized, including by U.S. Senate investigations. Deratany and Samuelson hope that the film will help raise awareness of the daunting challenges faced by all youth in foster care, and the need to help them because they are our responsibility.

Studies show fewer than three percent of foster youth earn a college degree. Each year, more than 20,000 youth age out of foster care, and within two years, more than half are homeless, incarcerated, on drugs or on welfare.

**“There are an estimated 400,000 children in foster care in America,” Deratany noted. “They are basically unrepresented, with few ways to shape their destinies. Why? One simple reason: they are children. They have no money and they have no voice.”**

# The Issue

**The  
foster  
care  
crisis in  
America:  
profiting  
from the  
lives of  
children.**

**~430K**

American children are in the foster care system at any one time

**51%**

of US states report to the US Senate Committee on Finance as having for-profit foster care

**24%**

of foster care children experience homelessness 1 year after aging out

**60%**

of former foster children are unemployed five years after aging out

**53%**

of former foster children are unemployed one year after aging out

**3%**

of foster youth age 25 and older have a bachelor's degree

**The  
stats**



## **Partnership Opportunities** **What Role Can You Play?**

Foster Boy is building a movement to #FixFosterCare across the nation. We are seeking nonprofit and institutional partnerships to facilitate targeted public and private sector screenings and awareness-raising events to engage both the general public and policy makers. Foster Boy will build bridges to more empathy and positive profiles of foster youth and carers. The campaign will be especially geared towards younger, millennial skewing demos and will provide positive brand association with important, mission driven content.

**We will be doing the majority of our impact tracking through community grassroots engagement. To become a Foster Boy partner, please review our partnership opportunities on the following page.**

## **Why Partner?**

**Partnership with Foster Boy provides high-profile branding across a range of print and digital properties. It provides strong association with a hopeful, aspirational campaign that seeks to unite people around our common goal to Fix Foster Care and ensure the wellbeing of the nation's foster children.**

# Get Involved





**The  
#FixFosterCare  
Solutions**

**Vetted NGO &  
Academic Partners.**

**Direct Impact.**

**Positive Behavior  
Change.**

**No.1**

Stakeholder engagement through  
public or private screenings

**No.2**

Align with vetted NGOs supporting foster  
youth, former foster youth, foster carers, and  
community education to make #FixFosterCare  
a critical part of your organization's response  
efforts and on-the-ground programs

**No.3**

Host Attorney, Advocate, Writer Jay Paul Deratany

**Get  
Involved**

# No.1 Host a Screening

Film is a powerful tool to help ignite conversation, raise awareness, and drive change. The reaction to this movie has already led to new legislation and a powerful movement to activate reform against corruption in foster care.

Bring Foster Boy to local theaters, community centers, schools, churches, libraries, universities, foster care agencies, clinics, companies, and government institutions.

**Can't get everyone in one room? Host a Virtual Screening for your company, institution, community group or friends, anywhere in the world.** Just let us know when you'd like the screening to start, whether it's a simultaneous screening (viewers start watching at the same time) or an anytime screening (viewers watch at their leisure over a pre-set time period), and the approximate number of viewers.

We'll send you a private screening link and password which you can share with your viewers.

[HOST A SCREENING](#)

# Take Action

# No.2

## Develop a Fix Foster Care Initiative

### And consider the following:

- Enhance the viewing experience by hosting a group discussion during or after the screening using Facebook, Twitter or Google Hangouts. Make the conversation public by using #FixFosterCare as your discussion hashtag, and consider curating a panel of foster care experts with our help.
- Want to set up a theatrical screening with admission? Set a rental fee. Let your viewers know. Retain a percentage of the 'box office'.

### Screening partners will receive:

- Feature film (109 minutes)
- Discussion and Impact Guide
- Action Kit with materials and resources for foster youth, parents, carers, administrators and policy makers.

**Please fill out the form below and we will be in touch shortly!**

**FILL OUT PARTNER FORM**

# Take Action

# No.3

**Advance  
The  
Dialogue  
With  
Jay Paul  
Deratany  
Attorney.  
Advocate.  
Writer.**

**Make #FixFosterCare a critical part of your organization's response efforts and on-the-ground programs by hosting Foster Boy writer Jay Paul Deratany at your next conference or event.**

**Signature Speaking Themes:**

- Remedies & Reforms: Advocating for child welfare in the courtroom and beyond
- Resilience to Redemption: Overcoming early childhood adversity to heal and thrive
- First Star Academy: Putting Children First™

**Ideal Audience Foster Care Speaker:**

- Statewide Child advocacy conferences
- National Child advocacy conferences
- Social Worker conferences
- Foster and Adoption Events and conferences
- Adoption and Foster Care recruitment events
- Fundraising galas and events
- Youth assemblies
- Training and development seminars
- Student leadership conferences
- Graduations

# Spark Change



**Meet  
Jay Paul  
Deratany  
Attorney.  
Advocate.  
Writer.**

**“As long as kids keep getting abused in the system, I’m going to keep fighting for them,” Deratany said. “We need more foster families and more money to be pushed in the right direction.”**

Jay Paul Deratany is an accomplished lawyer, human rights activist, and foster youth advocate who uses his intense experiences in the legal system to cultivate his projects as a playwright and a screenwriter. He has spent his entire career pursuing justice for the vulnerable and creating change in our society, and currently serves as a board member for Human Rights Watch and is a 2020 inductee to the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. Jay founded The Deratany Firm - today known as Deratany & Kosner - which consistently secures historic and life-changing results for its clients. That success includes winning a historic \$45,000,000 verdict in a foster care wrongful death case as well as the then-largest jury verdict in Lake County history, \$23,000,000, in a birth injury case.

Mr. Deratany obtained his MFA from the University of California Riverside. He has written several plays, including *Haram Iran*, which was inspired by a true story about two 15-year-old Iranian boys who were hanged for being gay. *Haram Iran* was nominated for a GLAAD award for best theatrical play of 2011. Mr. Deratany has written two feature films: *Saugatuck Cures* and *Foster Boy*. *Foster Boy*, which has an upcoming theatrical and VOD release on September 25th, 2020, stars Academy Award Winner® Louis Gossett Jr., Matthew Modine, Shane Paul McGhie, Julie Benz, Shane Paul McGhie, and others. It is written and produced by Jay Paul Deratany and executive produced by Shaquille O’Neal. The film spotlights some of the horrific abuse and institutional coverups that plague the foster care system - moral and legal issues that he has fought against in the courtroom. He resides in Chicago with his husband.

**SPEAKING REQUESTS**

**Inspire  
Dialogue**

## From Reel To Real:



### Donate



### Defend



### Foster/Adopt



### Write Your Reps.



### Share

Other partnership opportunities include helping Foster Boy with joint curriculum development, college and community ambassador initiatives, and case study contributions. Please fill out the form below and we will be in touch shortly!

[FILL OUT PARTNER FORM](#)

# Take Action



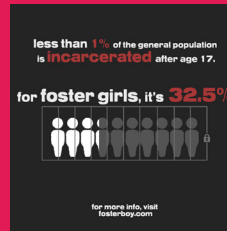
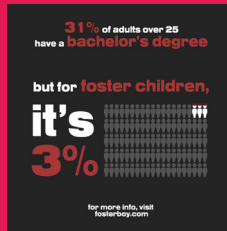
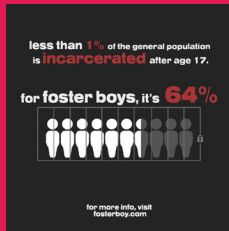
Join film producer Shaquille O'Neal and step up to help thousands of foster kids across America.



Follow us online by clicking on the icons to the left. Join the conversation by tweeting, posting, and using your platform to raise awareness about the foster care crisis. Tweet & Post using #FosterBoy and #FixFosterCare



Below are some images we'd love for you to share!



SHARE THE OP-ED

DOWNLOAD IMAGES

# Engage online

**Activating  
reform against  
corruption in  
foster care.**

**CHILD  
WELFARE  
REFORM  
NOW!**

**Thank You**

[WWW.FOSTERBOY.COM](http://WWW.FOSTERBOY.COM)

**FOSTER  
BOY**