

PLAYBILL®

PRESENTED BY CHEW AND CHELTEN CDC AND DAN RAMSEY @ TREASURES

YO! PUT THE GUN DOWN A HIP-HOP SYMPHONY

Written & Produced by
Douglas Rucker

SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19, 2025
7PM

TREASURES BANQUET HALL
5549 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19144

A special anti-gun violence musical theater performance and fundraiser for the hip hop symphony ensemble's touring performances

chewandcheltencdc.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Douglas Rucker, Writer, Exec. Producer

Douglas Rucker is a playwright and director in the theatre world for over 35 years in both community and professional theatre. His plays have been commissioned by Morris Brown College, Uptown Cultural District Group, Arts Council of Fayetteville N.C., the Bottomline Playhouse, and the Kimmel Cancer Center. His plays and staged readings have been produced in New York, Philadelphia, Fayetteville, N.C., Atlanta, GA, and the Frank Silvera Writers Workshop in Harlem, New York.

He was co-founder of his first theatre company- African American Theatre Company in Fayetteville, N. C., and was one of the first local artists to have his work produced in the original Philadelphia Fringe Festival in 1999. Douglas has spent the last six years of his life serving his community as the Executive Director of the Chew and Chelton CDC, and Creator and Interim Artistic Director of the newly founded...the Hip Hop Symphony Ensemble.



John Graves III, Director

John W. Graves III, founder, and director of John Graves Productions (JGP) and Heres2CoolStuff Clothing Store (H2CS) is a Philadelphia native, entrepreneur, educator, student, producer, writer, and performing artist. He's received training from Evelyn Graves School of Performing Arts and Co., Freedom Theatre, Wilkes University, West Chester University, & Drexel University.

At the age of 19, Graves produced his first musical production. Following the success of the production, he founded John Graves Productions. Since 2007, Graves has continued to use the arts to educate, enrich, serve, and inspire the community and audiences abroad. He has received several awards, acknowledgements, and citations from the city of Philadelphia and state of Pennsylvania and a special citation from the Governor of PA for his contributions in the arts over the years.

Currently, Graves runs John Graves Productions and Heres2CoolStuff while performing as an artist. He also travels to teach, direct, and consult for entrepreneurs, small businesses, non-profits, theaters, arts and entertainment companies, churches, and schools.

YO! PUT THE GUN DOWN

SEPTEMBER, 2025

"YO! PUT THE GUN DOWN" is a powerful social commentary addressing issues of violence, gun culture, and community unity within Black communities. It uses a combination of scenes, songs, poetry, and monologues to depict the devastating impact of gun violence, loss, and systemic injustice.

Written & produced
by **Douglas Rucker**

DIRECTOR
John Graves III

ADMINISTRATION
Yvette Williams

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Ontaria Kim Wilson

SOUND & LIGHTING
TECHNICIAN
Neil Thornton

Executive Assistant
Denzel Pryor

THE CAST & CREW

Bri Monk, Christopher Benson, Cameron Cephas, Chris Cephas, Desmond Boyer, Devon Alston, Gineasa Brice, Justin Amadi, Lashana Hunter, Laticia Whittington, Lydia Azondekon, Marchand Hill, Marriya Mobley, Nichole Bryant, Nicki Sheppard, USUN, Star Brown, Taylor Samuels, Travis "LIFE"



ORDER OF PERFORMANCES

DIRTY ORCHESTRA

PUT THE GUN DOWN – RA CERTIFIED

LIGHTS OF A CLEAR BLUE MORNING

USUN – PERFORMANCE

LIFE – PERFORMANCE 1

BETTER INTERLUDE

WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN

USUN – PERFORMANCE

AIN'T NO SUNSHINE

RA CERTIFIED – PERFORMANCE

TO SIT AND DREAM

CHILDREN





Philadelphia Anti-Violence Community Partnership



PEACE IN THE STREETS

South Philly

OUTDOOR CONCERT & COMMUNITY DAY

SEPT 27 | 12-3
2025 | PM

Tindley Temple Parking
Lot - 750 S Broad St.

Live Performances, DJ,
Line-Dancing, Food,
Giveaways, Games,
Community Support

JOHN GRAVES PRODUCTIONS



@jgproductions1

FREE