



News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 13, 2017

Contact: Mary Breaden
(929) 214-9085
maryb@camba.org

CAMBA WELCOMES ACTORS FROM *THE WIRE*, *LAW & ORDER AND 24* TO EAST NEW YORK FOR A PRESENTATION OF THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS' ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE PROJECT

A PERFORMANCE OF *HERCULES IN EAST NEW YORK* – STARRING FRANKIE FAISON, GLENN DAVIS AND CHINASA OGBUAGU -
- WILL BE HELD IN CAMBA'S EAST NEW YORK CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CENTER

On Thursday, CAMBA, one of New York City's largest multi-service organizations, will host actors, students, artists and community members for a special presentation of Theater of War Productions' *Hercules in East New York*, a public health project that addresses the impact of gun violence on communities. This free event, on **Thursday, December 14, from 7 – 9:00 p.m. at 2702 Linden Boulevard in Brooklyn**, will feature a dramatic reading by acclaimed actors Frankie Faison (*The Wire*), Glenn Davis (*24*) and Chinasa Ogbuagu (*Law & Order*), followed by community panelist remarks and an audience discussion about the repercussions of gun violence on the neighborhood. This performance is one of 60+ events Artistic Director Bryan Doerries will present in all five boroughs as part of his work as New York City Public Artist in Residence (PAIR) with the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and Department of Veterans' Services in 2017-18.

Theater of War Productions' interactive presentation of *Hercules in East New York* begins with a dramatic reading from a contemporary translation of the classical Greek play by Euripides, *The Madness of Hercules*, followed by a community conversation about the negative social consequences of violence. This work ties in closely with CAMBA's violence interruption program, [Brownsville In Violence Out \(BIVO\)](#), which has been using innovative methods to reduce violence in Brooklyn, through a partnership with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Cure Violence. BIVO uses social media and partnerships across the community to treat violence as a public health issue. This model has seen astounding results since it was implemented in 2015: shooting incidents in areas where BIVO works are down by 25%.

President and CEO of CAMBA, Joanne M. Oplustil, said: "We are honored to cap off our year's work to reduce violence in Brooklyn with this fantastic performance from Theater of War Productions, which is an important piece of our larger commitment to create a safe and vital community. Thursday's event,

Hercules in East New York presents our young people with a positive alternative to violence and helps to spread the message that our city is united in seeking safety for all of its citizens.”

“We are thrilled to be working with CAMBA to present *Hercules in East New York*,” said Bryan Doerries, artistic director of Theater of War Productions, “CAMBA’s comprehensive approach to helping New Yorkers thrive against daily struggles with housing, illness and violence, speaks to our mission at Theater of War Productions to give communities the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations around the pressing issues they face, to promote positive action and emotional health.”

To reserve seats for Thursday’s performance, please visit <http://bit.ly/2o157Fq>

About CAMBA

CAMBA is a nonprofit organization that provides services that connect people with opportunities to enhance their quality of life. Started in 1977, CAMBA offers integrated services and programs in: Economic Development, Education & Youth Development, Family Support, Health, Housing and Legal Services. CAMBA serves more than 45,000 individuals and families, including 10,000 youth, each year. Learn more about CAMBA’s life-changing services at www.CAMBA.org.

About Theater of War Productions

Theater of War Productions is a social-impact company that uses a combination of theater and guided public dialogue to help communities address pressing public health and social issues such as combat-related psychological injury, suicide, end-of-life care, police/community relations, prison reform, gun violence, political violence, natural and manmade disaster, domestic violence, substance abuse, and addiction. Theater of War Productions was co-founded in 2009 by Bryan Doerries and Phyllis Kaufman, who served as producing director from 2009 to 2016. Doerries currently serves as the company’s artistic director. For more information, please visit: www.theaterofwar.com

###