

IT'S GOOD TO BE A
MAVERICK



JDI Productions Creates Engagement for Wu-Tang Clan

CHAUVET
PROFESSIONAL



LOWELL, MA – Now there's a brand new day to mark on the November calendar, at least for residents of Staten Island. On Friday November 9, officials in the New York City borough announced that henceforth that day will be forever observed on the island as "Wu-Tang Clan Day." It was a fitting honor for the local group from the Park Hill neighborhood that revolutionized rap 25 years ago on November 9, 1993, with their debut album *Enter the Wu-Tang*.

A week earlier, the Wu-Tang Clan, which Rolling Stone once declared, "the best rap group ever," celebrated their 25th anniversary with a sold-out concert 240 miles to the north of Staten Island at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, MA. Balancing the dynamism of the iconic group's sound with a contemplative reflection that fit the quarter-century retrospective, the concert evoked a wide range of emotions. Reflecting it all visually was a diverse Freddy Thompson lighting design that featured over 60 CHAUVET Professional fixtures, supplied by JDI Productions, Inc.

Thompson's show did more than provide eye-popping visuals to match the various moods on stage; it also created a light bridge that connected the Wu-Tang Clan to their devoted audience. "There's a strong bond between this group and their fans," said Thompson. "The start of the show was pretty intense. The crowd was all about seeing the group making their appearance on stage. So, naturally we focused a lot on audience lighting."

Going beyond audience lighting, however, Thompson connected the Wu-Tang Clan to the crowd at the arena by creating a lot of bright static scenes on stage. "This is a decent-sized arena, so we didn't want to rely just on audience lighting, since it's kind of hard to cover the whole crowd," said Thompson. "I was also going for a lot of big looks and static scenes. I didn't want the rig to be moving all over the place with no rhyme or reason."

Color also played a big role in setting the mood and creating the crowd connection for Thompson.



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