

THE BLACK STARS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***The Black Stars*: Word is Bond world premiere of Ghana documentary set for January 11 at the Historic Hollywood Theatre, hosted by Ken Boddie**

- Date: January 11, 2024
- Hollywood Theatre, Portland, OR
- Full details about the Documentary are available on our [website](#)
- Contact [Lakayana Drury](#) for media opportunities and interviews
- [Media Kit](#)

The Black Star World Premiere

Word is Bond announces the premiere of our documentary, *The Black Stars, from the Rose City to the Gold Coast*, at the historic Hollywood Theatre hosted by news anchor Ken Boddie on Thursday, January 11, 2024. The film is directed by 21-year-old filmmaker Tamaryah "[Twixx](#)" Williams.

The Black Stars premiere will be a cultural celebration including a red-carpet arrival, live musical performances featuring drumming, dancing, singing, a special rap performance, and a post-film panel with the young men starring in the film. The premiere will include special guests Stephen Green, Alonzo Chadwick, YunginCED, Dr. Renee Mitchel, and film producer Twixx Williams.

Host: Ken Boddie, Featured Speaker: Stephen, Musical Performances: Alonzo Chadwick and YunginCED, Panel Moderator: Dr. Renee Mitchell.

Along with the documentary, there is an original rap single being produced by rapper and PSU student Caleb YunginCED Dixon and a special Black Stars tour is planned for Black History Month 2024. On the tour, the Black Stars film will be played at local high schools and universities around Oregon to inspire and encourage Black students to travel to Africa. The documentary will then be released for free on YouTube at the end of Black History Month to be a barrier-free resource for Black students for educational and motivational purposes.

“The Black Stars Documentary will be an educational resource for educators, parents, students, and the community to inspire Black students to visit and learn about their history in Africa” - Lakayana Drury, founder, and executive director, of Word is Bond.

Film Synopsis

The Black Stars, from the Rose City to the Gold Coast, is the coming-of-age story of eight young Black men from Portland, Oregon, who travel to Ghana for a two-week leadership expedition led by the non-profit Word is Bond, to reconnect with their ancestral roots for the very first time.

Over two weeks, the young men travel across the West African nation, visiting historical sites of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, meeting with ministers of the Ghanaian government, visiting students in urban and rural communities, and immersing themselves in local culture.

While part of a team that must work together to achieve their goals, each ambassador of the expedition has their own narrative, unique challenges, and dreams for their future that are revealed throughout the film.

Black men are among the most misunderstood figures in modern society. The documentary sheds light on the experiences of young Black men growing up in the Pacific Northwest as well as the importance of returning to Africa as a means of reconciling the complex nuances of the African American experience. It is a journey of hope, leadership, and brotherhood that invites viewers to find out what it means to be a Black Star.

Background

The Black Stars was filmed primarily in the summer of 2023 during the inaugural Black Stars Homecoming Expedition, a two-week leadership trip to Ghana that serves as the capstone program of Word is Bond's three-year leadership program, Rising Leaders.

About Word is Bond

Word is Bond is a nonprofit leadership incubator for young Black men based in Portland, Oregon. Our mission statement asks the question: *What if young Black men were empowered to their fullest potential?*

Word is Bond empowers young Black men ages 15 through 20 years old. We currently have over 60 young men in our leadership pipeline across Oregon in high school, college, and the workforce. They are eager to write their own legacies and we are equipping them with the tools to make it happen.

For more information: mywordisbond.org/blackstars

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