

**EXCLUSIVE PREMIERE OF “BLACK PANTHER” TO BE HELD FOR SYRACUSE
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

By: Kristen Wong

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Feb. 6, 2018 – An exclusive premiere of the film “Black Panther” will be held for Syracuse University students on Thursday, February 15, at Regal Cinemas in Destiny USA for the celebration of Black History Month. The event is sponsored by Orange After Dark in collaboration with the Student Association, Light on Ebony, NPHC, Mixtape, Renegades and Femme Noir.

The superhero Black Panther is one of the first major black superheroes from a mainstream comic company. “Black Panther” tells the story of T’Challa, who was first featured in the movie “Captain America: Civil War.” After the death of his father, T’Challa returns to his homeland, Wakanda, an African nation, to take over his father’s role as king. However, a powerful enemy returns and T’Challa’s role as the Black Panther and king is complicated when his country is in danger. T’Challa must gather his allies and his people and dive into the role of the Black Panther to save his country.

Because this is one of the first major superhero movies that has a predominantly black cast, it is highly anticipated by the black community. Its director, Ryan Coogler, is the first black director of a Marvel film. Many see the film as groundbreaking and unprecedented because of its role as a cultural turning point in mainstream film. It has already overtaken “Captain America: Civil War” for Marvel’s record for first-day advance ticket sales. The film is poised to break the record for biggest advance ticket sales for any superhero movie in history. The release of “Black Panther” during Black History Month makes the movie more relevant than ever to the issues of

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social justice, diversity and representation in media.

“As a self-identifying Afro-Caribbean woman who has grown up in and around predominantly white institutions, seeing an almost all-black cast being represented on screen is everything,” said Cafui Awasu, a sophomore at Syracuse University. “February is an extra special month of reflection and observance to better appreciate those who came before and paved the way. For ‘Black Panther’ to come out during this month places emphasis on our roots and the power we have within.”

The premiere of “Black Panther” for Syracuse University students prefaces the school’s first-ever social justice day on Saturday, February 17. The day, called “Cuse For Good: Social Justice,” includes a panel, lunch and concert.

“When University Union and NPHC had the idea to create “Cuse for Good,” we didn’t realize the magnitude it could take on,” said Keely Higgins, director of public relations for the University Union. “We are so excited that the event has been able to incorporate different aspects of social justice, including the screening of “Black Panther.” I know many students have been anxiously awaiting the release of this movie, and I think “Black Panther” will be an important milestone for social justice on this campus as a part of Black History Month and throughout society.”

Student tickets for the “Black Panther” premiere went on sale on February 5. The fee is \$3 and includes transportation to and from the mall. All proceeds from the premiere and “Cuse for

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Good” will be donated to various Syracuse City Schools.

For more information about the “Black Panther” premiere or other Black History Month events, please visit <http://multicultural.syr.edu>.

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