

Outdoor School

A Feature Film

Based on a true Story

The Story

The Film tells the story of Vin Shambry, a Black 12-year old boy in Portland, Oregon. Homeless, Vin sleeps under a tree in the park with his mother and baby sister, by day palling around with his school-yard friend, daughter of a famous shoe designer. Vin's 6th grade class embarks on an educational coming-of-age adventure known as Outdoor School. Reluctant to leave his family, Vin goes on the trip, where his world view is transformed by nature and caring adults. For the first time, he learns what it

means to be a kid. He faces the dilemma of sacrificing his only pair of sneakers, his prized Deon Sanders Nikes in order to help his team win in tug of war. Ultimately, Vin navigates the tension between his family life and the great outdoors while masking his poverty at all costs to protect himself and the people he loves. The experience changes his life: watching it will change yours.



Vin Shambry and his mother, Velma, on set



← [Click here to see Vin tell his story himself on The Moth \(~9min\)](#)

The Backdrop - A Tale of Two Portlands

Portland in the 90's was a place of environmental activism, Mayor Bud Clark exposing himself to art, figure skater Tonya Harding, the beginning of coffee culture, and a successful Trailblazers team. In fact, much of this story has been romanticized by productions like IFC's Portlandia.



However, under that very white veneer, the Black community was fighting to flourish amidst gang violence, gentrification, and a very real memory of racist police actions like [The Burger Barn Incident](#). This is a tale of Black Portland in the 90's. A story that hasn't been



told, and whose time has come. Viewers will see and feel what it is like to grow up

Black in America, and how even against the backdrop of poverty, joy and transformation can be found.



Fiscal Sponsorships

Open Signal

LION SPEAKS

Open Signal, formerly known as Portland Community Media, is a media arts center with a commitment to creativity, technology, and social change. Lion Speaks' mission is to educate, expose, and empower under-served racial groups in the media industry, through educational opportunities in medial literacy, mentoring, training, and job placement.

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