# Bono’s documentary premieres to standing ovation at Cannes, hailed for immersive storytelling



Bono made a radiant entrance at the 78th Cannes Film Festival for the premiere of his new documentary, *Bono: Stories of Surrender*, a highlight of the prestigious event that celebrates global cinema. The U2 frontman, aged 65, basked in the adulation of an enthusiastic audience, which rewarded his film with a remarkable seven-minute standing ovation—a testament to both his star power and the film’s emotional resonance.

The day following this triumph, Bono exuded joy and confidence, sporting his signature orange-tinted sunglasses and a sleek black suit. His playful camaraderie with fans captured the attention of onlookers, showcasing a man at ease and visibly inspired by the warm reception.

*Bono: Stories of Surrender*, set to stream on Apple TV+ from May 30, delves deeply into the personal narrative of Bono’s life, drawing from his bestselling memoir, *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story*. The film is not just a documentary; it is an introspective journey that intertwines his relationships, faith, and activism with the illustrious saga of U2. Directed by Andrew Dominik and aligned with the innovative spirit of Apple, the documentary is being hailed as a groundbreaking entry into immersive storytelling, particularly with its availability in Apple Immersive Video for the Vision Pro headset.

During his speech at Cannes, Bono expressed sincere gratitude while playfully acknowledging his linguistic shortcomings by vowing to learn French for next year’s festival. “I'm not a Frenchman. I'm an Irishman. I'm not even a self-made man,” he quipped, illustrating his ability to connect with the audience while giving a nod to his roots. He further referenced the collaborative nature of his journey with U2, crediting his bandmates and the team behind the film for their roles in crafting his story.

In the film, viewers can expect an unfiltered glimpse into the complexities of his life, from the joys and challenges of fatherhood to his commitment to global issues like poverty and human rights. Bono has long utilised his platform for activism, and in recent interviews, he has voiced concerns about the state of global affairs, particularly the implications of rising nationalism and the rollback of humanitarian aid, a stance he articulated in the context of President Trump's foreign policy. These issues align poignantly with themes explored in the documentary, reflecting his belief in the moral imperative of hope amidst adversity.

The Cannes Film Festival, often described as the "Olympics of cinema," attracts filmmakers and artists from around the world, showcasing powerful narratives that often provoke critical dialogues regarding the current global climate. This year's festival opened under the shadow of anticipated tariffs on international films, proposed by the Trump administration, raising alarms about the future of creative expression and collaboration across borders. Nevertheless, the spotlight remained on artistic ingenuity and the celebration of film as a unifying medium.

As attendees gathered in the Grand Auditorium Louis Lumière, new regulations aimed at promoting a more conservative dress code were also put in place, aiming to curtail the increasingly provocative fashion trend seen on the red carpet. This year promises a refined atmosphere where artistry and decency coalesce against a backdrop of high-profile premieres, as filmmakers like Scarlett Johansson and Tom Cruise prepare to unveil their directorial exploits.

*Bono: Stories of Surrender* is expected to be more than just another documentary; it is a testament to a life lived in the intersection of music and activism, offering a narrative that encourages reflection on personal and collective journeys. The commentary it provides—about love, loss, and resilience—aims to inspire both fans of U2 and newcomers alike, reaffirming Bono’s longstanding role as an influential voice in contemporary culture.

As the festival draws to a close, attention will turn towards the reception of Bono’s film on a global stage, where it will join the ranks of influential documentaries and dramatic features presented in this illustrious setting.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Paragraphs 4, 5
3. Paragraph 4
4. Paragraphs 1, 4
5. Paragraphs 4
6. Paragraphs 1, 2, 4

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14722385/Bono-stories-surrender-special-screening-cannes-festival.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/bono-debuts-appletv-documentary-cannes-criticizes-us-aid-cuts-2025-05-16/> - Bono, the frontman of U2, premiered his new Apple TV+ documentary 'Bono: Stories of Surrender' at the Cannes Film Festival. The black-and-white film, set to stream from May 30, is based on his memoir 'Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story' and explores personal themes such as fatherhood, religion, and politics. Marking his debut in a one-man show format, Bono reflects on his life and decades with U2, as well as deeper philosophical and spiritual questions. The film is also notable for being the first full-length feature available in Apple Immersive Video for the Vision Pro headset. In addition to promoting the documentary, Bono criticized cuts to U.S. foreign aid under President Donald Trump and condemned such reductions as lacking compassion and foresight. He emphasized the injustice of needing charity in a fair world, citing his own father's perspective and reflecting on the significance of the 1985 Live Aid concert in supporting famine relief in Ethiopia and boosting U2’s global profile.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/46f7b03ea09d80f36975e5eb230fba0b> - At the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, U2 frontman Bono premiered the Apple TV+ documentary 'Bono: Stories of Surrender,' based on his one-man stage show and 2022 book. In an interview, Bono reflected on his personal journey, particularly his complex relationship with his father, and on broader geopolitical issues. He voiced concern about the global shift away from globalization and rising nationalism, stating that the world is currently closer to a world war than ever in his lifetime. While highlighting the benefits globalization brought to the global poor, he acknowledged it also hurt certain Western communities. Bono expressed sorrow over the dismantling of USAID and the rollback of significant progress in combating HIV/AIDS. He emphasized the importance of hope and historical acknowledgment, especially concerning U.S. and Russian roles during WWII. The documentary, directed by Andrew Dominik, captures Bono's introspective narrative where he peels off layers of his public persona to reveal personal vulnerability. Bono remains hopeful about humanity's capacity to overcome present dangers, underlining the moral duty to hope in dark times.
4. <https://www.apple.com/tv-pr/news/2025/02/apple-original-films-announces-groundbreaking-new-documentary-event-bono-stories-of-surrender-premiering-globally-on-may-30-on-apple-tv/> - Apple Original Films announced the groundbreaking new documentary event 'Bono: Stories of Surrender,' a bold and lyrical visual exploration of Bono’s one-man show by the same name, to premiere globally on Friday, May 30, 2025 on Apple TV+. Based on his celebrated memoir, 'Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story,' and the accompanying book/theatre tour, the film hails from RadicalMedia and Plan B Entertainment, with award-winning filmmaker Andrew Dominik ('The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford,' 'Blonde') directing. 'Bono: Stories of Surrender' is a vivid reimagining of Bono’s critically acclaimed one-man stage show, 'Stories of Surrender: An Evening of Words, Music and Some Mischief…' As he pulls back the curtain on a remarkable life and the family, friends and faith that have challenged and sustained him, he also reveals personal stories about his journey as a son, father, husband, activist and rock star. Along with never-before-seen, exclusive footage from the Beacon Theatre shows, the film features Bono performing many of the iconic U2 songs that have shaped his life and legacy. Also set to premiere on May 30, 2025 on Apple Vision Pro, 'Bono: Stories of Surrender (Immersive)' will be the first feature-length film available in Apple Immersive Video, a remarkable media format recorded in 8K with Spatial Audio to produce a 180-degree video that places viewers onstage with Bono and in the center of his story. With this special edition of the film available only on Vision Pro, viewers will feel completely immersed in the music and storytelling. Releasing an immersive version of the film for Vision Pro alongside its debut on Apple TV+ is the latest example of Bono’s enduring commitment to innovation. Since U2’s earliest days, Bono and the band have consistently pushed boundaries and embraced new technologies to forge deeper and unexpected connections with their audience. Academy Award and Emmy Award-winning RadicalMedia’s Jon Kamen and Dave Sirulnick ('Summer of Soul,' 'Hamilton,' 'David Byrne’s American Utopia') produce alongside Academy Award-winning Plan B Entertainment’s Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner and Jeremy Kleiner (upcoming 'F1,' 'Moonlight,' '12 Years a Slave'). Bono executive produces with Jennifer Pitcher ('Kiss the Future') and Kelly McNamara ('V-U2 an Immersive Concert Film at Sphere Las Vegas'). 'Bono: Stories of Surrender,' an abridged and updated paperback edition of Bono’s bestselling memoir, will be released concurrently with the documentary film. Introspective, intimate and irreverent in equal measure, this version has been refined to mirror the arc of his one-man show and features a film tie-in book cover and new introduction by the author. Born Paul David Hewson, Bono has been headlining stadiums around the world with U2 for more than four decades. The band has sold over 175 million records and won 22 Grammy Awards. A longtime activist in the fight against AIDS and extreme poverty, Bono is also the co-founder of ONE and (RED). For his music and activism, he has been awarded the Freedom of the City of Dublin, the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, France’s Legion of Honor and an honorary British knighthood. 'Bono: Stories of Surrender' joins the award-winning slate of Apple Original documentary films, including the recently announced untitled feature on legendary rock icons Fleetwood Mac; Academy Award winner Davis Guggenheim’s 'STILL: A Michael J. Fox Movie,' which swept the Critics’ Choice Documentary Awards with five wins, alongside four Emmy Award wins; Emmy Award-nominated 'Selena Gomez: My Mind & Me,' a uniquely raw and intimate documentary spanning her six-year journey into a new light; Emmy Award-nominated and PGA Award-winning 'STEVE! (martin) a documentary in 2 pieces,' featuring legendary writer, producer, director, actor and comedian Steve Martin; and Emmy Award-nominated 'Billie Eilish: The World’s A Little Blurry,' among many others.
5. <https://www.apple.com/tv-pr/originals/bono-stories-of-surrender/> - 'Bono: Stories of Surrender' is a vivid reimagining of Bono’s critically acclaimed one-man stage show, 'Stories of Surrender: An Evening of Words, Music and Some Mischief…' As he pulls back the curtain on a remarkable life and the family, friends and faith that have challenged and sustained him, he also reveals personal stories about his journey as a son, father, husband, activist and rock star. Along with never-before-seen, exclusive footage from the tour, the film features Bono performing many of the iconic U2 songs that have shaped his life and legacy.
6. <https://www.festival-cannes.com/en/f/bono-stories-of-surrender/> - 'Bono: Stories of Surrender' is a vivid reimagining of Bono’s critically acclaimed one-man stage show, 'Stories of Surrender: An Evening of Words, Music and Some Mischief…' As he pulls back the curtain on a remarkable life and the family, friends and faith that have challenged and sustained him, he also reveals personal stories about his journey as a son, father, husband, activist and rock star. Along with never-before-seen, exclusive footage from the tour, the film features Bono performing many of the iconic U2 songs that have shaped his life and legacy. Directed by Andrew Dominik, the film has a duration of 87 minutes and is part of the Special Screenings at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival.