

ALS Ice Bucket Challenge arrives in North Korea

August 31 2014, by Eric Talmadge



Two-time Grammy award winning rapper and a founding member of the Fugees, Pras Michel, gets doused by his friends for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014 in Pyongyang, North Korea. The American rapper and documentary filmmaker said he wanted to join in the immensely popular charity challenge and thought of Pyongyang where the ice bucket craze is unknown, would be the perfect place to do it. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

It's pretty hard to find a novel way to do the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge by now, but two-time Grammy-winning rapper Pras Michel, a founding

member of the Fugees, has done it—getting his dousing in the center of North Korea's capital on Sunday.

Pras had two buckets of [ice](#) water dumped on his head along Pyongyang's Taedong River, much to the surprise and bewilderment—and laughter—of North Koreans out for a stroll or some fishing on their day off.

The American rapper and documentary filmmaker said he wanted to join in the immensely popular charity [challenge](#) and thought Pyongyang—where the ice bucket craze is unknown—would be the perfect place to do it.

"I thought I'd put a little twist to it," he told The Associated Press. "When we go to places, my crew, we stick out. You can tell instantly these guys aren't from this neck of the woods. But the people have been good to us."

He said he passed on the challenge to four people, including former bandmate Lauryn Hill and Britain's Prince Harry.

More than 3 million people around the world have joined in the challenge, which has raised more than \$100 million for the ALS Association. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive illness that hits the nerves and the brain and can lead to paralysis and death. There is no cure, though a treatment now available can extend the life expectancy for its sufferers.

Pras, in North Korea to watch a pro wrestling exhibition and "explore," said he is currently working on several projects, including "Sweet Mickey for Prezidan," a documentary about Haiti's presidential election that is due out by the end of the year.



Two-time Grammy award winning rapper and a founding member of the Fugees, Pras Michel, speaks to the Associated Press in his hotel room, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014 in Pyongyang, North Korea. The American rapper and documentary filmmaker said he wanted to join in the immensely popular charity challenge and thought of Pyongyang where the ice bucket craze is unknown, would be the perfect place to do it. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)



Two-time Grammy award winning rapper and a founding member of the Fugees, Pras Michel, smiles after being doused by his friends for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014 in Pyongyang, North Korea. The American rapper and documentary filmmaker said he wanted to join in the immensely popular charity challenge and thought of Pyongyang where the ice bucket craze is unknown, would be the perfect place to do it. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)



Two-time Grammy award winning rapper and a founding member of the Fugees, Pras Michel, poses for a picture, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014 in downtown Pyongyang, North Korea. The American rapper and documentary filmmaker said he wanted to join in the immensely popular charity challenge and thought of Pyongyang where the ice bucket craze is unknown, would be the perfect place to do it. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

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