



Calgary International Spoken Word Festival

2006 Schedule of Events

The 2006 Calgary International Spoken Word Festival will encompass seven events, including the return of the hugely popular Big Bang Poetry & Music and a Hip-Hop Poetry Workshop. This year, the CISWF is thrilled to celebrate queer Canadian artists with Queer Conscience and to team up with Bravo!FACT for a screening of Canada's best VideoPoems. The focus on community has grown, with two opportunities for emerging poets to take the stage: the Open Mic and the Calgary Poetry Slam.

With eight events, a workshop, a blog and over thirty Canadian artists, the CISWF is larger and more explosive than ever, so prepare to have your minds blown in the sweetest of possible ways!

EVENT #1 – Pre-Festival Special Event:

The Road To Paradise

presented by Industrial Opera Company, WordFest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival and the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts
in association with the Calgary International Spoken Word Festival

Tuesday, April 25 – Reception 7:00 pm, Performance 7:30 pm
Jack Singer Concert Hall Lobby, EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts
FREE

ARTISTS:

Michelle Biden (Regina)
Christian Bök (Calgary)
Shane Koyczan (Vancouver)
Robin Poitras (Regina)
Donald Stein (Regina)

The Showers of Blessing Choir (Calgary)

A celebration of art, architecture, music and poetry that evokes the rich history of Calgary and the West. For more information visit www.wordfest.com or call 294-7462.

EVENT #2: Open Minds:
Coach House & Snare Book Launch with Open Mic

Wednesday, April 26 – 8:00 pm
Beat Niq Jazz & Social Club – 811 1 St SW (downstairs)
\$5, includes a discount on Coach House book purchases

MC: Paul Kennett

ARTISTS:

Jason Christie (Calgary)
Jon Paul Fiorentino (Montreal)
Angela Rawlings (Toronto)

Two of Canada's most exciting publishers launch three brand-new volumes of Canadian poetry! Coach House Books has been publishing and printing innovative fiction and poetry since 1965 and two of their latest offerings, *The Theory of the Loser Class* by Jon Paul Fiorentino and *Wide slumber for lepidopterists* by a.rawlings, will take Calgary by storm – and then beloved local poet Jason Christie will fire back with *Canada Post* from Canada's newest publisher, Snare.

Come for the launch of cutting-edge Canadian poetry and stick around for the open mic, where you can storm the stage and share your words!

EVENT #3: Calgary Poetry Slam!

Thursday, April 27 – 8:00 pm
Auburn Saloon – #163 115 9 Ave SE (base of the Calgary Tower)
\$5

SLAM-MASTERS: Mark Hopkins & Sheri-D Wilson

The Calgary Poetry Slam has lit the city on fire with its unrestrained wordplay every month. Now that wild energy hits the CISWF! Ten poets each get three minutes of rhythm, passion and style to stun the audience and win \$100 cash. The event will feature past Slam winners – and you! Arrive early with two poems and a \$10 registration fee for your chance to take the mic and show us how it's done.

Selected poets from the monthly Slam will form the first Calgary Slam team and represent the city in October's Canadian Festival of Spoken Word in Toronto.

EVENT #4: Queer Conscience

Friday, April 28 – 8:00 pm
Auburn Saloon – #163 115 9 Ave SE (base of the Calgary Tower)
\$10

MC: Chantal Vitalis

ARTISTS:

Shone Abet (Calgary)
bill bissett (Toronto)
Ivan E. Coyote (Vancouver)
Dale Lee Kwong (Calgary)
Suzette Mayr (Calgary)
Billeh Nickerson (Vancouver)
Gregory Scofield (Calgary)

Lose the work clothes, ditch your inhibitions and join us for an unforgettable Friday night with Canada's glitterati! These seven diverse poets and storytellers defy convention and ignite the imagination with their passionate and exuberant words and ideas. Take a walk outside the cube, swig a martini or three and stumble home with a very queer conscience.

EVENT #5: Bravo!FACT Video/Poems

Saturday, April 29 – 11:00 am
Glenbow Museum – 130 9 Ave SE
\$10

Hosted by Toronto producer Judy Gladstone, this Video/Poem screening will showcase some of Canada's most exciting poets working in the electronic medium. Films will include George Bowering in *Lost in the Library*, Al Purdy and Gord Downie in *At the Quinte Hotel*, Michael Ondaatje in *Cinnamon Peeler*, Robert Priest in *Time Release Videos: Too Much Time*, Kinnie Starr in *Luv Junket*, Lynn Crosbie in *Fort Goof* and CISWF Artistic Director Sheri-D Wilson in *Spinsters Hanging in Trees*.

The event will be followed by a reception and informal discussion.

MEDIA CONTACT:
Sheri-D Wilson, Artistic Director
403.686.4292 – www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com

EVENT #6: Oral Traditions & Exhibitions

Saturday, April 29 – 1:00 pm
Glenbow Museum – 130 9 Ave SE
\$10

MC: Allan Boss

ARTISTS:

bill bissett (Toronto)
George Bowering (Vancouver)
Ivan E. Coyote (Vancouver)
Catherine Kidd (Montreal)
Robert Priest (Toronto)

The bones of the earth will rattle with poetry that resonates through the planet's crust. This special afternoon event presents five of the strongest voices in Canadian poetry, for a song. Oral Traditions & Exhibitions will rock the museum into a present history that must be seen to be believed.

EVENT #7: Big Bang Poetry & Music

Saturday, April 29 – 8:00 pm
Auburn Saloon – #163 115 9 Ave SE (base of the Calgary Tower)
\$15

MC: Billeh Nickerson

ARTISTS:

George Bowering (Vancouver)
T. Crane (Calgary/Vancouver)
Catherine Kidd (Montreal)
Shane Koyczan (Vancouver)
Motion (Toronto)
Robert Priest (Toronto)

Hot ticket! The festival favourite returns for a second year! Canada's first Poet Laureate, George Bowering, joins five of the nation's SUPER-POETS and a jazz trio back-up to swing the night wild. Commemorate the final days of the 2006 National Poetry Month with an explosively artistic party in Calgary's official theatre bar!

Media pre-interviews can be provided.

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EVENT #8: Champagne & Jalapeños

Sunday, April 30 – 2:00 pm
Art Gallery of Calgary – 117 8 Ave SW
\$10

MC: Harry Vandervlist

ARTISTS:

Christian Bök (Calgary)
Xstine Cook (Calgary)
Emily Elder (Vancouver)
Sean McGarragle (Vancouver)
Motion (Toronto)

Recover from the Big Bang in style at the Art Gallery of Calgary as we close the festival with five stunning poets. Sip champagne and lather on the sunscreen, because the jalapeño heat will be amped up with scorching verse!

WORKSHOP: Floetry Poetry Hip-Hop Workshop
w/ Wakefield Brewster

Saturday, April 29 – 1:00 to 5:00 pm
Motel, EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts
\$50

He's blasted onto over 300 spoken word stages across Canada and the US, and now Toronto sensation Wakefield Brewster brings his unique hip-hop poetry stylings to his new home, Calgary. Bring three of your poems to inject them with rhythm, attitude and an unbeatable urban vibe.

BLOG: Blog-Blog-Blog
w/ T.L. Cowan

www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com/blog

Electronic nuance at the click of an eye – blogs are one of the most innovative and expansive new forms of self-expression. Everyone and their dog has a blog! And since we're dogs...

Visit www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com/blog for a day-by-day, blow-by-blow account of the festival events! Spoken Word Artist and Blogger T.L. Cowan will take you behind-the-scenes to find out what happens off the page and beyond the stage.

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