



Contact: **Jessica Ruano** | CFSW 2010 Ottawa  
The Canadian Festival of Spoken Word  
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## ***SPEAK UP OTTAWA!*** ***The Canadian Festival of Spoken Word*** ***returns to the capital***

**The Canadian Festival of Spoken Word** (CFSW 2010 Ottawa [www.cfsw.ca](http://www.cfsw.ca)) returns to the capital for the first time since its inception in 2004 with the largest slam-focused spoken word event in Canadian history. From **October 12 to 16, 2010**, Ottawa will be treated to a wide-ranging display of Canadian slam poetry and spoken word featuring **over 100 of the best spoken word poets from 15 communities across Canada.**



Capital Slam: John Akpata, PrufRock, Chris Tse, OpenSecret, Brandon Wint

Over the course of five nights, **18 teams** participate in highly competitive poetry slams that will determine this year's Canadian Slam Champions. Home of the defending champions, Ottawa has two teams – **Capital Slam** and **Urban Legends** – attempting to keep the title in the capital this year.



Truth Is...

CFSW 2010 Ottawa features some of the biggest names in spoken word, most notably **Dwayne Morgan** with Toronto's Up From the Roots, **Truth Is...** with the Burlington Slam, **RC Weslowski** from Vancouver, **El Jones** from Halifax, and **John Akpata** on Ottawa's Capital Slam team.

CFSW 2010 Ottawa opens with a **Francophone Showcase** featuring Outaouais poet **Marjolaine Beauchamp** and closes with performances by the festival's Poets of Honour **Anthony Bansfield** a.k.a. 'the nth digri' and **Shauntay Grant**.



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CFSW 2010 Ottawa's **Daytime Programming** is entirely **FREE!** Poets and poetry enthusiasts are welcome to attend **workshops and panel discussions** on poetry writing, spoken word in schools, and connecting with other arts organizations. There will also be a **Last Chance Slam** on October 12 to determine the festival's **'Wild Card' Team**, a **Youth Showcase** on October 13, and a **Steve Sauvé Memorial Nerd Showcase** on October 14. The poets will hit the streets of Ottawa **'Guerrilla style'** on the afternoon of October 15 to perform random acts of poetry in the downtown core.

Following the slams, there will be late-night events highlighting the poetry of music: the **Poetry & Music Cabaret** featuring **Scruffmouth**, **Moe Clark**, and **SPIN** on October 13; the **Slam After-Party** with Montréal's **DJ Cosmo** on October 14; and Toronto's **Kobo Town** and Ottawa's **John Carroll & the Epic Proportions** will grace the stage on October 15.



Shane Koyczan

Spoken word poetry in Canada has boomed over the last few years with numerous achievements across the country and around the world. In January of this year, **Shane Koyczan** introduced spoken word to the world at the **2010 Winter Olympic Games** in Vancouver when he performed his poem "We Are More" at the Opening Ceremonies. This past summer, Ottawa's **Ian Keteku**, member of the spoken word group **The Recipe** and one of the workshop facilitators at CFSW 2010 Ottawa, won the **World Poetry Slam Cup** in Paris, France.

*The Canadian Festival of Spoken Word takes place in numerous venues in downtown Ottawa (see pages 5 and 6 for details) from October 12 to 16, 2010. For more information, please call the CFSW 2010 Ottawa hotline 613 301 8648, email [info@cfsw.ca](mailto:info@cfsw.ca), or visit [www.cfsw.ca](http://www.cfsw.ca).*

#### **Tickets and Passes**

Tuesday FREE ALL DAY | Slams Wednesday & Thursday \$10 at the door  
Semi-Finals Friday \$10 adv./\$15 door | Finals Saturday \$15 adv./\$20 door  
Festival Pass \$40

#### **Advance Tickets and Festival Passes available**

East African Restaurant | 376 Rideau Street | 613 789 7397  
Compact Music | 190 Bank St. | 613 233 7626 | 785½ Bank St. | 613 233 8922  
Vertigo Records | 193 Rideau Street | 613 241 1011



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## **What is Spoken Word?**

Spoken Word is poetry intended for onstage performance, rather than designed for the page. While often associated with hip-hop culture, it also has strong ties to storytelling, stand-up comedy, modern poetry, post-modern performance, and monologue theatre, as well as jazz, blues, and folk music. Due to its immediacy and direct rapport with its audience, this type of poetry often contains references to current events and contemporary social issues. At its best, spoken word is a powerful, high-energy form of expression that attracts artists and audiences of all ages from a wide range of disciplines and socio-cultural backgrounds.

## **What is Slam?**

Slam is the competitive form of spoken word. At a Canadian slam, artists are given three minutes to perform a poem they have authored, without the aid of props or musical instruments. Five randomly selected judges from the audience give them scores between zero and ten. Points are deducted for going over time. The highest and lowest scores are dropped, and the remaining three are added together to give a final score out of 30. The poet with the highest score at the end of the night wins the slam. Each year, series associated with Spoken Word Canada send the top four poets of their season and an 'alternate' as their representatives to the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word.

## **What is the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word?**

The Canadian Festival of Spoken Word is the country's pre-eminent literary festival focused on spoken word and slam poetry. CFSW 2010 Ottawa is the seventh annual edition of the festival and its first return visit to the place where it all began. CFSW took place in Vancouver in 2005, Toronto in 2006, Halifax in 2007, Calgary in 2008 and Victoria in 2009. Since the inaugural festival (then called the Canadian Spoken Wordlympics) was held in Ottawa in 2004, CFSW has grown in both stature and participation to include representatives from 15 communities on a record 18 teams (including one 'Wild Card' Team) in the national slam championships.



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## 18 TEAMS

### **Burlington**

Truth Is... | Made Wade | Yogi  
Tomy Bewick | Lishai

### **Calgary**

Joshua Bartolomé | Elana Krol  
Serafina Daley | Tyler Perry  
Andre Prefontaine

### **Edmonton**

Ify Chiwetelu | Titilope Sonuga  
Ahmed Ali | Chris Krueger  
Mary Pinkoski

### **Guelph**

David James Hudson | Macer | TK  
Matthew Dryden | Beth Anne Fischer

### **Halifax**

El Jones | JPhat | iZrEAL  
Winona Linn | Zeviathan

### **Lanark County**

Sarah Bingham | Inez Dekker  
Emily Kwissa | Satinka Schilling  
Britt Pruden-Faraday

### **London**

Kyra Harris | Steff 'Spike' Armstrong  
Dana 'I.D.' Matthews | Elyse Maltin  
Frankin 'WordzWorthe' Davis

### **Montreal**

D-Na | Queen KA | Caytey Lush  
Alessandra Naccarato | Xavier

### **Ottawa Capital Slam**

John Akpata | PrufRock | Chris Tse  
Open Secret | Brandon Wint

### **Ottawa Urban Legends**

Synonymous | Hodan Ibrahim  
Marcus Jameel | Hyfidelik  
D-LightFull

### **Peterborough**

Ceren Kabukcu | Gillian Turnham  
Chris Last | arRay of woRds

### **Saskatoon**

Khodi Dill | Megan Lane  
Nicole Almond | Elise Marcella  
Charles Hamilton

### **Toronto Poetry Slam**

Relevant | Kiki | Fraser | PAN  
David Delisca

### **Toronto Up From The Roots**

Patrick De Belen | Dwayne Morgan  
LEVIATHAN | Keisha Monique | Memo

### **Vancouver Poetry Slam**

Johnny MacRae | Sasha Langford  
Lucia Misch | RC Weslowski  
Chris Masson

### **Victoria**

Steven J. Thompson  
Matthew Christopher Davidson  
Jeremy Loveday | Megan Ann Ward

### **Wild Card Team**

TBA Tuesday, October 12

### **Winnipeg**

Steve Holbrow | Aaron Simm  
Lochlin Broatch | Dylan Mowatt  
Marcus Bauer



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## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

### **Tuesday, October 12**

*University of Ottawa Chapel – Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland St.*

- 1 - 3 p.m.      **Last Chance Slam (to determine the Wild Card team)**  
7 - 9 p.m.      **Festival Opening Celebration & Francophone Showcase**  
                    Hosted by Mehdi Hamdad & Featuring Ivy, Marjolaine  
                    Beauchamp, D-Track & Sophie Jeukens  
9 - 10:30 p.m.    **Bout 1 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**

### **Wednesday, October 13**

- 1 - 2:30 p.m.      **Intro to Poetry Writing (for Youth) Workshop**  
                    Facilitated by Ian Keteku  
2:30 - 4 p.m.      **Activism in Spoken Word Workshop**  
                    Facilitated by SPIN

*Cajun Attic – 349 Dalhousie Street*

- 4 - 5:30 p.m.      **Youth Showcase**  
                    Hosted by Dwayne Morgan

*Ottawa Little Theatre – 400 King Edward Avenue*

- 7 - 8:30 p.m.      **Bout 2 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**  
9 - 10:30 p.m.    **Bout 3 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**

*University of Ottawa Alumni Auditorium – 85 University Street*

- 7 - 8:30 p.m.      **Bout 4 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**  
9 - 10:30 p.m.    **Bout 5 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**

*Hooley's Pub – 292 Elgin Street*

- 11 p.m.            **Poetry & Music Cabaret**  
                    Featuring Scruffmouth, Moe Clark & SPIN

### **Thursday, October 14**

- 1 - 2:30 p.m.      **Sankofa: A Poet's Contract (Workshop)**  
                    Facilitated by Scruffmouth  
2:30 - 4 p.m.      **Connecting with Arts Organizations Panel Discussion**  
                    Facilitated by David Silverberg

*Cajun Attic – 349 Dalhousie Street*

- 4 - 5:30 p.m.      **Steve Sauvé Memorial Nerd Showcase**  
                    Hosted by Festrell & Featuring Nadine Thornhill & Bart Cormier



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## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

### **Thursday, October 14 cont'd**

*Courtyard by Marriott Ottawa – Laurier Room, 350 Dalhousie Street*

7 - 8:30 p.m.      **Bout 6 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**

9 - 10:30 p.m.    **Bout 7 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**

*The Velvet Room – 62 York Street*

7 - 8:30 p.m.      **Bout 8 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**

9 - 10:30 p.m.    **Bout 9 – National Slam Championship Preliminary Round**

11 p.m.            **Slam After-Party**

Featuring DJ Cosmo

### **Friday, October 15**

*Downtown Ottawa*

3 - 5:30 p.m.      **Guerrilla Poetry**

Poets take to the streets to perform random acts of poetry

*Ottawa Technical High School Auditorium – 440 Albert Street*

7 - 8:30 p.m.      **National Slam Championship Semi-Final #1**

9 - 10:30 p.m.    **National Slam Championship Semi-Final #2**

*Ritual Nightclub – 137 Besserer Street*

11 p.m.            **Kobo Town and John Carroll & the Epic Proportions**

### **Saturday, October 16**

1 - 2:30 p.m.      **Poetry Slam in Schools Workshop**

Facilitated by Danielle K.L. Grégoire & Lara Bozabalian

2:30 - 4 p.m.      **Self-Promotion in the Digital Age (for Artists) Workshop**

Facilitated by Kate Leadbeater – bilingual event

*Cajun Attic – 349 Dalhousie Street*

4-5:30 p.m.      **Poetry and Music Showcase**

Featuring Red Slam Collective

*Dominion-Chalmers United Church – 355 Cooper Street*

7-9 p.m.            **Poets of Honour & Closing Festival Showcase**

Featuring Anthony Bansfield 'the nth digri' & Shauntay Grant

9-11 p.m.          **National Slam Championship Finals**



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## ***UPCOMING!***

Craving a taste of spoken word poetry before the festival in October? Here is a sampling of spoken word events happening in Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley.

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|--------------|--|
| September 18 | Capital Slam at The Mercury Lounge 56 Byward St.<br>7 to 10pm   featuring Poetic Speed, slam and open-mic                |
| September 24 | Urban Legends at Carleton University, Unicentre room 282<br>7 to 10pm   ft. Urban Legends team   open-mic                |
| October 2    | Capital Slam at The Mercury Lounge, 56 Byward St.<br>7 to 10pm   feature poet, slam and open-mic                         |
| October 7    | Bill Brown 1-2-3 Slam at the Cajun Attic, 349 Dalhousie St.<br>7 to 10   featuring Beth Anne Fischer   slam and open-mic |
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For more any media inquiries regarding these events and the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word, please contact **Jessica Ruano** CFSW 2010 Ottawa Publicity by email at [publicity@cfsw.ca](mailto:publicity@cfsw.ca) or by phone at 613 286 9373.