

Catch slam poet champ after his Olympic performance

Morning Star Staff

SALMON ARM — Those who have seen slam poet champion Shane Koyczan perform on the local stage joined the nation and the world in cheering when he delivered his original spoken word composition, *We Are More*, at the Vancouver Olympics' opening ceremonies Feb. 12.

The former Okanagan College student/Penticton resident has become an instant star since the performance, with thousands saturating the internet with positive

comments about his performance, and the poet receiving kudos from Olympic athletes and commentators, including an interview with *Today Show* host Matt Lauer.

Those attending this summer's Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival can hear more of Koyczan's mind-blowing spoken word and slam poetry when he and the Short Story Long take the festival stage.

They're just one of 50 acts that will fill six outdoor stages at the Salmon Arm Fairgrounds Aug. 13 to 15.



Slam poet Shane Koyczan is scheduled to perform at this year's Roots and Blues festival.

Koyczan is a multi-award winning spoken word performer and

former member of TOFU (Tons of Fun University), which made an appearance at the festival in 2007.

He breathes new life into the genre of talk rock with his band, the Short Story Long, a trio with a musical range that stretches from folk to funk while showcasing all of the beautiful in between.

Koyczan holds the distinctive title of 2000 National Poetry Slam Individual Champion and he and the Short Story Long were named New Artist of the Year at the 2009 British Columbia Interior Music

Awards, while Roots and Blues also won an award at the BCIMAs for Best Venue Supporting Live Music.

Earlybird passes to the 18th annual Roots and Blues Festival are currently available at significant savings over subsequent pricing. Passes are available online at www.rootsandblues.ca or call 250-833-4096.

A limited number of pre-registered campsites are also available but should be booked well in advance as festival camping sold out early in 2009.