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Photo submitted

**Shane Koyczan, who hails originally from Penticton, performed at the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympics. His schedule for the summer includes the Salmon Farm Roots and Blues Festival.**

## Koyczan to play Roots festival in Salmon Arm

By Penticton Herald staff

Penticton native Shane Koyczan will be among the 50 artists who will perform at the 18th Annual Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival artist, August 13-15 at the Salmon Arm Fairgrounds.

Koyczan has been everywhere this month from stealing the show at the Opening Ceremonies of the Vancouver Olympics to an interview with Matt Lauer of NBC's *The Today Show*. He was also recognized at this week's Penticton City Council meeting.

Koyczan is a multi-award winning spoken word performer and former member of T.O.F.U. which made an appearance in Salmon Arm 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.

The Pen-Hi graduate holds the dis-

tinctive 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 the Salmon Arm Roots and Blues also won an award at the BCIMA's for Best Venue Supporting Live Music.

Also featured will be the cool reggae rhythms of Mishka; the hot and funky firestorm known as Five Alarm Funk; guitar virtuoso and hand-tap sensation, Eric Mongrain; a sizzlin' mix of traditional and contemporary blues with artists like John Németh, Watermelon Slim and the Workers, Lil Ed and the Blues Imperials, Joe Louis Walker, Shemekia Copeland; and much more.

With new acts currently being confirmed, Roots and Blues continues to live up to its reputation of delivering one of the best, most diverse presentations anywhere.

On the net: [www.rootsandblues.ca](http://www.rootsandblues.ca)