

Exploring Contemporary Canadian Voices

the spoken word



Toronto Poetry Slam Team 2007

David Silverberg (TPST)



- Artistic director and host of [Toronto Poetry Slam](#), a monthly spoken word competition starring the top performance poets in the Toronto area.
- Co-producer of the 2006 Canadian Festival of Spoken Word.
- Host of the inaugural Luminato Poetry Slam.
- Organizer of the spoken word stage at Toronto's Word on the Street.
- Author of the poetry book *Bags of Wires*, published by [LyricalMyrical](#).



Before Viewing

David Silverberg

Before viewing *What is a Poetry Slam?:*

- What do you think a poetry slam is?
- Has you ever attended a slam? What was it like?



Background

David Silverberg

- David Silverberg, artistic director of the Toronto Slam Team, onstage at the Words Aloud Festival in Durham, Ontario, explains how a slam works.
- A poetry slam is the competitive art of performance poetry. It puts a dual emphasis on writing and performance, encouraging poets to focus on *what* they're saying and *how* they're saying it.
- The annual Canadian Festival of Spoken Word takes place in different cities and features slam teams from across Canada, competing for the title of slam champion.



View *What is a Poetry Slam?*

3 minutes, 23 seconds



After viewing *What is a Poetry Slam?*:

- What are the slam rules?
- What two things are the judges' scores based on?
- What is the audience's role?
- How is a slam different from a traditional poetry reading?



- **COME UP WITH** a question or make a statement about what you've just experienced. Or write a response to the video: personal associations, ideas, feelings.



Credits

Videos – Filmed at the 2007 Words Aloud 4 Spoken Word Festival based in Durham, ON. The videos were produced/directed by Liz Zetlin and Myke Dyer.

Words Aloud 4 Festival 2007 – Presented by the Words Aloud Poetry Collective in collaboration with the Durham Art Gallery.

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