

**5TH ANNUAL ARIZONA SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL AND SLAB CITY SLAM,
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT ARCOSANTI**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Arizona Spoken Word Festival and Slab City Slam turns five-years-old this Memorial Day Weekend. Like performance poetry all over Arizona, the festival just keeps getting bigger and better. Over the past five years, Slab City has not so quietly become one of the highlights of Arizona's annual cultural calendar, growing from a statewide slam poetry competition to a full-fledged language arts celebration that encompasses theatre, music, performance art, and more.

The Slab City Slam remains the heart of the weekend. Slab City Slam is a performance poetry competition for bragging rights as state slam poetry champions. Ten teams of four poets each will pour their hearts, souls, and intellects out, and then have their innermost thoughts assigned a numeric value by randomly selected audience judges. The three fast-paced, funny, exciting, and heart-wrenching rounds will last all day and into the night on Saturday, May 28th, 2005. As in previous years, festival co-founder Dan Seaman of the Prescott Area Poets Association will preside. An accomplished poet and engaging host, Seaman is the bearded face and deep, sonorous voice of the Slab City Slam.

A special night of performances kicks off the festival on Friday, May 27th. These opening night festivities have consistently been the site of some of the festival's most innovative, daring, and engaging work. This year, vagabond troubadour Paul Sprawl adds Slab City to his ongoing national tour. Former Arcosanti resident theater company, The Laboratory for Enthusiastic Collaboration returns from an international tour to present *The Values Americans Live By: a piece of theater*. Tucson's performance poetry guru The FunKtional Adix transmutes poetry into video *Cinemoems*. Prescott Poet Dan Seaman rants about everything that matters. And you can bet there are plenty more surprises up our linguistic sleeves.

Saturday, May 28th begins with sunrise yoga for early risers. The action kicks into high gear in the beautiful Colly Soleri Amphitheatre at 10 A.M. with the first of three rounds of slam poetry at its very best. Ten teams (from Phoenix, Mesa, Tucson, Prescott, Flagstaff, Sedona, Bullhead City, and Arcosanti) square off for an uncensored, no-holds barred competitive poetry extravaganza.

For many patrons of poetry, slam is an unknown art form. Slam poetry is audience judged poetry that bases its appeal and success on the high-energy performances of the competing poets. A slam poem is like a short piece of theater. Slam poets combine emotional energy with linguistic deftness to bring about a vivid, physical, gut-wrenching experience. Subject matter runs the gamut: social comment, love, sex, politics, hope. The poetry is adult in nature, and is not recommended for young listeners or those with tepid convictions for examining the human condition.

Special guests throughout the day will include poet Luke Warm Water of South Dakota and the Oglala Lakota Sioux Nation, AZ Classical Theatre's improvisational Shakespearean-themed comedy Greenshow "The World's Greatest Shakespeare Company", music from Prescott-area favorites Pat Beary and David Whitely and an encore performance from featured musical guest Paul Sprawl.

The night is far from over once the 2005 Winning Team has been declared! After the competition, master fire performers Flam Chen will light up Arcosanti's world-famous architecture with the grandest spectacle you're likely to see anywhere this Memorial Day Weekend. And the heat doesn't stop there! The traditional live bronze trophy pour, accompanied by the winning team's poetry, caps the night off in Arcosanti's unique outdoor bronze foundry at the edge of the mesa. After that, who knows?

- The event is entirely free and open to all members of the public, though donations for the site and the poets are encouraged.
- Camping is available on Arcosanti's 4,000 acres of uninhabited wilderness, both Friday and Saturday nights, for a mere \$5.00. Limited guest rooms are available for rent.
- Arcosanti's visitor center will be open all weekend, offering tours of the Arcosanti project, the world famous Soleri Windbells for sale, meals in the Arcosanti Cafe, snacks in the Bakery, and beer and wine at the Part-timer Pub.
- Parking is limited, please carpool.
- The Colly Soleri Amphitheatre is a covered stadium-style, concrete amphitheatre. Bringing a seat cushion or lawn chair is suggested.
- No underage drinking, glass in the amphitheatre, or pets (except AAO) are allowed.
- All artistic content completely uncensored and potentially life-altering. Be warned.

Arcosanti is at exit 262 off I-17 and Rt. 69 Cordes Jct, AZ, midway between Phoenix and Flagstaff. Take the Cordes Junction/Prescott turnoff and look for the signs.

For more information:

Visit: www.arcosanti.org

E-mail: whatisart@gmail.com (Ira Murfin) or astreetfaery@aol.com (Jewel Blackfeather)

Call: 928-273-4306 (Jewel Blackfeather)

For guest room reservations call: 928-632-6217 (Arcosanti Gallery and Visitor Center)

Posters at: <http://www.arcosanti.org/expArcosanti/visit/events/2005/slabcity2005.htm>

Images of past years/Arcosanti: archives@arcosanti.org