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## Poet Shihan to Slam at Student Center

March 27, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Slam poet Shihan will perform Friday, March 30 at 8 p.m. in the Illinois Wesleyan University Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington). He will also host an open mic segment, during which anyone can perform original work.

Sponsored by the Black Student Union and the Office of Student Activities, the event is free and open to the public.

Shihan has undertaken five national tours featured on DVD including the Tony Award-winning *Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry Jam International Tour*, two upcoming Spoken Word documentaries and *Slam Planet*, the sequel to the 1997 cult documentary *Slam Nation*.

A 2004 National Poetry Slam Champion and a 2001, 2003 and 2005 National Poetry Slam Finalist, Shihan has appeared on a variety of media outlets including NBC, HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen Network, Al Gore's Current TV, Nike's *Battlegrounds*, CNN, Artisan Films' *Belly* DVD, *Complex* and *Billboard Magazine* and several national commercial spots.

Shihan has independently released two CDs, *The Poet*, which received a 2005 Honorable Mention in the *Baltimore Sun*, and *Music is the New Cotton*. Both CDs have received critical praise for their honesty and creativity.

For additional information, contact the Office of Student Activities at (309) 556-3850.



Shihan

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