

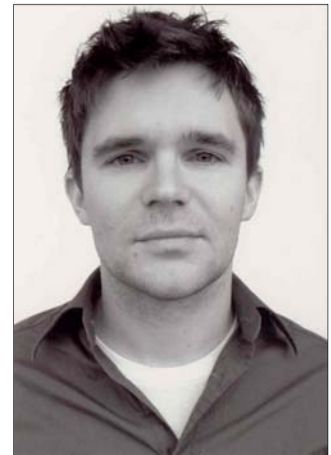
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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Award-winning Local Poet Reads at NIC

North Island College is pleased to welcome Vancouver Island native Steven Price who will read from his award winning, debut book of poems, *Anatomy of Keys* on October 21 at the Port Alberni campus. "*Anatomy of Keys* is a poetic biography of Harry Houdini told in five parts," writes Jason Ranon Uri Rotstien for Brick Books. "Never have I heard a poet compared metaphorically to an escape artist. The metaphor is unusual. This is Steven Price's endeavour."

In Price's acclaimed first collection of poems he creatively traces the familiar outlines of Harry Houdini's life. From his arrival in America as a child named Ehrich Weiss to his untimely death, Price paints a profound picture of Houdini's time. Amazon's editorial review reads, "These poems – improbable escapes, astonishingly executed through the figure of Houdini – form the spine of a deep and ardent meditation on what is."

Steven Price is a respected poet in the Victoria community who holds degrees from the University of Victoria (UVIC) and the University of Virginia and currently teaches writing at UVIC. His first collection of poetry, *Anatomy of Keys*, won the Gerald Lampert Award, was shortlisted for the Dorothy Livesay Prize, and was named a Globe and Mail Book of the Year. A novel, *Into that Darkness*, is forthcoming from Thomas Allen in 2011, and a second collection of poetry will be published by Brick Books in 2012.



Steven Price

The Colwood-raised Price has won the Henry Hoyns fellowship at the University of Virginia. His poetry has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Breathing Fire 2: Canada's New Poets*, *Long Journey: Contemporary Northwest Poets*, and *Jailbreaks: 99 Canadian Sonnets*, and has been translated into German and Hungarian. Price's family owns the oldest lock and security business which provided inspiration for his recent work.

"Houdini's wife kept a candle burning by his picture," says Bert Almon in a review for *Canadian Literature*, "but when ten Halloweens passed without a message from his spirit, she blew it out and said, 'Ten years is long enough to wait for any man.' Steven Price has lit the candle again."

Steven Price's reading is the part of the North Island College English Department's **Write Here Readers Series**. Acclaimed authors will visit the Comox Valley, Campbell River and Port Alberni campuses throughout the academic year to promote both the creative writing courses offered at NIC as well as writing that celebrates locality.

North Island College is pleased to acknowledge the support of the Canada Council in presenting this free, public event. The reading will begin at 7 pm on Thursday, October 21st in Room C-204 at NIC's Port Alberni campus.

NEWS RELEASE

For further information about Steven Price's reading or the **Write Here Readers Series**, please contact Matt Rader at 250-334-5000, extension 4155.

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