

# Circle of joy

MARCH 2018

## Jada's Wish

*I wish to meet spoken word poet, Shayne Koyczan*  
Jada, 14, Immune deficiency

Though Make-A-Wish is a grass-roots organization at heart, the great thing about it is how international the movement has become over its 38 year history. When a child from Arizona wishes to meet a celebrity in Vancouver, Make-A-Wish can turn that dream into a reality.



This was the case for Jada, an American teen with an immune disorder and secondary condition that is causing her to progressively go blind. She's had hard days, but one thing that she's always been able to relate to is the poetry of British Columbia native, [Shane Koyczan](#).

In a special wish, largely organized by Make-A-Wish BC & Yukon chapter staff, Jada had a remarkable day of one-on-one poetry writing alongside Koyczan, as well as an on-stage appearance at one of his performances at Vancouver's Vogue Theatre, to recite her own poetry to Koyczan's audience. Jada was also able to record some of her own spoken-word poetry in a professional studio session.

Jada's family was also with her for the experience:



*"Thank you to everyone who helped make Jada's wish come true,"* said Jada's mother, Magnon. *"Thank you to Shane Koyczan. You paved new paths for [Jada], opened more doors and awakened a sense of purpose and power she had lost between all the doctors, illnesses and bullying."*

Koyczan himself also reflected on the experience, following his day together with Jada. *"I've had the beautiful privilege of getting to know Jada,"* said Koyczan in a Facebook post, *"who is bubbly, hilarious, and insightful. Last night Jada read her poetry to a sold-out crowd at The Vogue... Thank you all for sharing space with us and giving room for Jada's voice to be heard."*



In a special wish enhancement, a video was made of the experience. You can [watch it here](#). Thanks to Stuart Gilles and [Here Be Monsters](#) for their work on this video.

