

For Immediate Release

Date: January 17, 2012

Contact: Carla Du Pree

Phone: (443) 518-4568

Email: [hocopolitso@yahoo.com](mailto:hocopolitso@yahoo.com)

### *HoCoPoLitSo's 34<sup>th</sup> Irish Evening with Hugo Hamilton*

HoCoPoLitSo, the Howard County Poetry and Literature Society, will host its 34th Annual Evening of Irish Music and Poetry fund-raiser with award-winning novelist and memoirist **Hugo Hamilton** on Friday, **February 17, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.**, at Smith Theatre on the campus of Howard Community College. A concert of Irish music and stepdancing follows the reading.

Author of two critically acclaimed memoirs, Hamilton will read from his bestselling work, *The Speckled People: A Memoir of a Half-Irish Childhood*. Caught between an Irish father, a German mother and two languages, Hamilton explains of his memoir, "We cannot sing the old songs anymore. ... It's a different nation now: the rebel songs, the old laments – they are not our songs anymore." Hamilton won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and the *Prix Femina Etranger* for this memoir, a "strange tale brilliantly told," according to the *Boston Globe*.

Hamilton penned two comic novels, *Headbanger* and *Sad Bastard*, featuring a Dublin detective considered one of the most original characters in contemporary Irish literature. Hamilton's latest novels are *Disguise* and *Hand in the Fire*. Visit [www.hugohamilton.net](http://www.hugohamilton.net) for details. The author serves as the 2012 Heimbold Chair of Irish Studies at Villanova University.

Hamilton's reading will be followed by a concert by Narrowbacks, with Eileen Korn Estes, Jesse Winch, Terence Winch, Linda Hickman, and Brendan Mulvihill on fiddle, playing traditional Irish music with stepdancers from the Culkin School.

Tickets are \$30 general admission BEFORE January 31, 2012; \$35 after February 1 and at the door. Tickets are available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211558> or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope and check payable to HoCoPoLitSo, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD. For more information or tickets visit <http://www.HoCoPoLitSo.org>; email [information@hocopolitso.org](mailto:information@hocopolitso.org) or call 443-518-4568.

*HoCoPoLitSo, the Howard County Poetry and Literature Society, has been enlarging the audience for contemporary poetry and literature since 1974. HoCoPoLitSo is supported by the Howard County Arts Council through a grant from Howard County government, the Maryland State Arts Council through the State of Maryland and the Department of Business and Economic Development, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Columbia Foundation, Howard County General Hospital: a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine, and Friends of HoCoPoLitSo.*