FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tyehimba Jess to read at HoCoPoLitSo’s Ninth Annual Blackbird Poetry Festival

Award-winning writer and slam poet Tyehimba Jess headlines the ninth annual Blackbird Poetry Festival for HoCoPoLitSo. With rare skill, Jess welds the immediacy of slam poetry with the craft of poetry on the page. The Blackbird Poetry Festival, April 27, 2017, on the campus of Howard Community College, is a day devoted to verse, with student workshops, book sales, readings and patrols by the poetry police. The Sunbird poetry reading, featuring Mr. Jess; as well as Washington, D.C., writer and literary activist E. Ethelbert Miller; local authors; and Howard Community College faculty and students, starts at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Jess will read from and discuss his recent work, Olio, as well as ledbelly, his 2004 book chosen for the National Poetry Series, during the Nightbird Poetry Reading, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Theatre of the Horowitz Center for Visual and Performing Arts. Nightbird admission tickets are $15 each (students and seniors are $10) available on-line at http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2551545 or by sending a self-addressed envelope and check payable to HoCoPoLitSo, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Horowitz Center 200, Columbia, MD 21044.

Tyehimba Jess, an associate professor of English at College of Staten Island, and a Cave Canem and NYU alumnus, received a 2004 literature fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a 2006 Whiting Fellowship. He is also a veteran of the 2000 and 2001 Green Mill Poetry Slam Team and was a finalist for the 2017 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award.


E. Ethelbert Miller, editor of poetry anthologies, author of two memoirs and numerous books of poetry, including his latest, The Collected Poems of E. Ethelbert Miller (2016), will read and lead a workshop.

For more than 40 years, HoCoPoLitSo has nurtured a love and respect for the diversity of contemporary literary arts in Howard County. The society sponsors literary readings and writers-in-residence outreach programs, produces The Writing Life (a writer-to-writer talk show), and partners with other cultural arts organizations to support the arts in Howard County, Maryland. For more information, visit www.hocopolitso.org.

HoCoPoLitSo receives funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the state of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts; Howard County Arts Council through a grant from Howard County government; The Columbia Film Society; Community Foundation of Howard County; the Jim and Patty Rouse Charitable Foundation; and individual contributors.