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Theatre Ariel to present readings of *The Hampton Years* by Jacqueline E. Lawton on the Mainline and NMAJH

Theatre Ariel will present two readings of Jacqueline E Lawton's powerful new work *THE HAMPTON YEARS*. Greater Philadelphia audiences have two opportunities to hear this sneak preview reading: Saturday February 16, 8 PM on the Mainline as part of the company's Standing Room Only SALON ARIEL series or 2 PM on Sunday February 17 at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Lawton's *THE HAMPTON YEARS* explores the development of African American artists, John Biggers and Samella Lewis, under the tutelage of Austrian Jewish refugee painter, Professor Viktor Lowenfeld in WWII America. *THE HAMPTON YEARS* will have its world premiere at Theatre J in DC this May.

JACQUELINE E. LAWTON received her MFA from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a James A. Michener Fellow. She has received commissions from Active Cultures Theatre, Adventure Theatre, Discovery Theater, National New Play Network, National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of American History, Round House Theatre and Theater J. Nominated for the Wendy Wasserstein Prize and a PONY Fellowship from the Lark New Play Development Center, Jacqueline was named one of 30 of the nation's leading black playwrights by Arena Stage's American Voices New Play Institute.

*"I'm proud to have *The Hampton Years* included as part of Theatre Ariel's Salon Reading Series. The plays they select each season are rich, compelling and beautiful," Lawton shared. "It's been really great getting to know Theatre Ariel's Artistic Director, Deborah Baer Mozes. Her passion and enthusiasm for this script and her investment in me as a writer have been inspiring and empowering. I'm honored to be working with Philadelphia-based artists and excited to introduce this play to Philadelphia audiences."*

SALON ARIEL revives a 19th century tradition giving audiences a chance to experience Jewish theatre in the intimate setting of private homes. Playwright

Jacqueline E. Lawton will engage the SALON ARIEL and NMAJH audiences in a post show discussion of THE HAMPTON YEARS. Seating for the SALON ARIEL evening of theatre, conversation and dessert is limited. For further information and to purchase tickets go to www.theatreariel.org.

Theatre Ariel is Pennsylvania's only professional theatre dedicated to illuminating the rich social, cultural and spiritual heritage of the Jewish people. They create and produce new and established works reflecting on the global Jewish experience. Theatre Ariel entertains, enriches and educates audiences of all ages and cultures through the telling of Jewish Stories, celebrating the laughter and lessons of the shared human experience.

Interviews available upon request
At 610-667-8998 or dbmozes@theatreariel.org

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