



FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

WHAT: Poetry Promise Award Winner Ariel Horton To Read at PublicUs!

The Poetry Promise award is annually granted to a student poet for exceptional promise in poetry and is selected by our Board of Directors. The recipient receives a \$500 award and a featured reading to showcase their art to the community. This award was initiated by the Clark County Poet Laureate.

WHO: Other poets who will also read that evening include **Flynn Dexter, Rodney Lee, Vogue Robinson, and Bruce Isaacson**. This event will be Isaacson's final reading while serving as the first Clark County Poet Laureate, and will debut his new book, *The Last Lie*.

Ariel Horton is an eighteen-year-old graduating high school senior. She was raised by two thespians who met performing in a Shakespeare play. So, her first love in poetry was William, himself.

She has lived with her family in Henderson since the green age of five. Horton says, "Since my relocation, I have struggled: battling years of psychological disorder and the sudden death of my father, surmounting in overdose, hospitalization, and ongoing recovery. **In my case, the pen has, indeed, been mightier than the pill bottle.**" In the fall, Ariel will attend Whittier College: a small, private liberal arts school near Los Angeles. Horton's poetry will be featured in Clark, the forthcoming Anthology of Clark County Poetry. In addition to winning the Poetry Promise Award, Horton received the Gold Medal in the Scholastic Art and Writing Award. She says these accomplishments have made her feel, for the first time, worthy of pursuing her art. She will pursue a degree in creative writing and begin working to bridge the gap between aspiring writer and professional writer. Ariel told us, "I know that I will thrive in the small classes and liberal arts curriculum at Whittier, and I will use this new environment to my advantage to continue to foster my skills as a young poet."

WHEN: Friday, May 26th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: PublicUs - 1126 Fremont St, Las Vegas, NV 89101.

AWARD: Ariel will be presented the Poetry Promise Award at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 20th, at a reading by nationally known poet David Lehman. The reading & presentation will be at Writer's Block.

In the award letter, Poet Laureate Bruce Isaacson noted: "The award is based on original writing which evidences unusual maturity, knowledge of poetic forms, and of the traditions of American and world poetry. Ariel's poems, such as *On How the Dead Manifest Sainthood, I Love You Potato Salad and Lobotomy, and My Muse is Too Heavy for My Writing Hand to Hold* evidence attention to craft, knowledge of the poetic tradition, and considerable achievement in poetry at a young age." Information about Poet Laureate programs can be found at <http://poetrypromise.org/news/>.

COST: This reading is free and open to the public.

CONTACT: Bruce Isaacson (Clark County Poet Laureate) at PoetLaureateClarkCounty@cox.net
Vogue Robinson, Executive Director, Poetry Promise, Inc. Director@poetrypromise.org
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