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Hugo House Announces 2017-2018 Poetry Writer-in-Residence and Made at Hugo House Fellows

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SEATTLE, WA—Hugo House announced today the writers selected for its two residency programs, which are a major component in the organization's mission to support writers throughout all stages of their writing life. Award-winning writer, teacher, slam poet, and performer **Amber Flame** is the new poetry writer-in-residence; the Made at Hugo House fellows are poet **Holly DeBevoise**, poet and writer **Max Delsohn**, fiction writer **Nia Dickens**, poet **Kym Littlefield**, poet and artist **Erin Lynch**, and indigenous prose writer **D.A. Navoti**.

Flame is the author of *Ordinary Cruelty* (Write Bloody) and her one-woman play, *Hands Above the Covers: Hairy Palms & Other Nightmares of a Church Kid*, was staged as an Artist Residency with New City Theater in 2010 under the auspices of a CityArtist grant through the City of Seattle's Office of Arts & Culture.

No stranger to Hugo House, Flame's professional career began there in 2008, when she received one of the last Hugo House Writers Funds grants for her multimedia performance, *SoulStories*. As a Hugo House writer-in-residence starting this fall, Flame will receive a monthly stipend, opportunities to teach, and space and time to complete her manuscript in progress, a collection of poems entitled *apocrifa*.

With a deep connection to a broad network of artists and teachers, Flame seeks to widen the community reach of Hugo House during her residency, particularly to communities that may not yet have ties to the organization, including the growing immigrant community and incarcerated populations, through her work with The IF Project, a program funded by the Seattle Police Foundation.

“After a decade of experience immersed in some combination of these social worlds, I am well aware of how they could benefit from a connection to the breadth of art and opportunity Hugo House offers,” writes Flame.

The writer-in-residence program also gives Seattle-area writers an opportunity to receive writing guidance and advice from a published writer, free of charge.

“I find it crucial for writers and artists to talk honestly about the pure labor that goes into this career. I do believe anyone can write—indeed, learn to write well—but not everyone truly wants to make a job out of it,” writes Flame. “My stance as a teacher is to approach balance through that honesty—to recognize the interplay between discipline and inspiration with clear vision and purpose.”

Flame joins Hugo House’s prose writer-in-residence, Sonora Jha, and will be available for appointments starting September 15, 2017.

Made at Hugo House is a yearlong fellowship for emerging writers who are selected by an anonymous advisory panel of writers. The fellowship supports the creation of new work by providing guidance and resources to the writers, who spend the year workshoping each other’s writing, meeting with Hugo House writers-in-residence, honing their craft in complimentary classes, and making use of private writing offices while working toward a completed manuscript.

The fellows will give two readings: one at the half-year point and another at the culmination of the fellowship.

For more information about the writer-in-residence and Made at Hugo House programs, visit hugohouse.org/get-involved-overview.

Quick Look

Poetry Writer-in-Residence

Amber Flame is a writer, composer, and performer whose work has garnered residencies with Hedgebrook, The Watering Hole, Vermont Studio Center, and YEFE NOF. Flame’s original work has been published in diverse arenas, including *Def Jam Poetry*, *Winter Tangerine*, *The Dialogist*, *Split This Rock*, *Black Heart Magazine*, *Sundress Publications*, *FreezeRay*, *Redivider Journal*, and more. A 2016 Pushcart Prize nominee, Jack Straw Writer, and recipient of the CityArtist grant from Seattle’s Office

of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Amber Flame's first full-length poetry collection, *Ordinary Cruelty*, was recently published through Write Bloody Press. Amber Flame is a queer Black single mama just one magic trick away from growing her unicorn horn.

apocrifa is a non-gendered love story inspired by the metaphors and structures of the Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon) from the Apocryphal books of the Bible. The developing intimacy between the lover and their beloved is propelled by a compendium of words for love, romance, and affection that remain untranslatable directly to English.

Made at Hugo House Fellows

Holly DeBevoise received her B.A. in English with emphasis in Creative Writing from Florida State University. She has since migrated from the South to Seattle. By day, she writes poems; by night, she bakes scones for the masses. She is confident that the stillness she has found in Seattle and the opportunity provided by Hugo House will coax her poetry out of hiding.

DeBevoise will complete an illuminated set of three poetry chapbooks. Through feminine-centric autobiography, botanical prompts, and the unlocking of the love poem, these chapbooks coalesce to encapsulate a phase of life formative to her identity as poet.

Max Delsohn holds a BA in Creative Writing from Seattle University, from which he graduated with Departmental Honors. He has been published in *Cutbank: All Accounts and Mixtures*, *Storm Cellar Quarterly Review*, *#Trans: An Anthology*, *Foliate Oak Literary Magazine*, and *Seattle University's Fragments*. Max has read his work at Elliot Bay Book Company, Chop Suey, Ada's Technical Books, and various other locations around Seattle. He also moonlights as a stand-up comedian, and has performed at local shows such as Odd Babes Presents, Couth Buzzard Comedy Show, and Fist & Shout.

Delsohn will finish the first draft of *Maxhood*, a book of humor essays that draws from his lived experience as a queer transgender person. He will ground this work both in the tradition of humor writing and in queer radical thought. He hopes this book will fuck up the cissexist consciousness and make you laugh at once.

Nia Dickens is a writer from Tallahassee, Florida and based out of University Place, Washington. After receiving her BA in Creative Writing from Florida State University in 2015, Dickens left the United States for two

years to teach English—first as a Fulbright grantee in Brussels, Belgium, and then later under the Teaching Assistant Program in France in Cannes. This summer, she's serving as a contributor for Technical.ly D.C. and Technical.ly Philly, as well as an editorial assistant for Dr. Henrik Eger of Drama Around the Globe and Phindie.com. As a fiction writer, Dickens focuses on coming-of-age stories about black youth, with a particular interest in how racism, sexism, and sexuality reshape this conventional genre. At the end of June, she will join the VONA Voices community for the first time as a student under M. Evelina Galang.

Dickens will work on a collection of short stories centered on the grandchildren of a North Carolinian tobacco farmer. In the wake of 9/11, the eldest grandson is exiled from the family for his sexuality and decision to join the army, leaving his sisters and cousins to grow up without him, while struggling to manage varying perceptions of racism, needs for independence, and personal manifestations of grief.

Kym Littlefield holds a BA in Creative Writing and Psychology from Denison University and his honors include the Annie MacNeil Poetry Prize and a Poetry Slam Champion. He has worked as an English as a Second Language instructor in Shenzhen, China as well as for the Rwanda Film Festival in Kigali, Rwanda. He is currently a bookseller at Open Books: A Poem Emporium.

Littlefield's project, tentatively titled *People Mountain, People Sea*, discusses the role of others and place in identity and chronicles the two years he spent in Shenzhen—a city packed with 15 million people—and traveling through Asia during Spring Festival's record-breaking human migration, as well as his move to Seattle, one of the fastest growing cities in America. The title comes from a Chinese expression meaning crowded.

Erin Lynch is a poet, artist, and educator from small-town Oregon, currently living in Seattle. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Gulf Coast*, *The Journal*, *Mid-American Review*, *New England Review*, and elsewhere. As an artist, she focuses on collaborative work, working with filmmakers and illustrators to tie together texts and visuals. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of North Texas and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Washington.

Lynch's book of poems-in-progress seeks to uncover the complex responsibilities she bears to other people, to the past, and to the land. Where does the contemporary female self intersect with different landscapes and historical figures? In the pursuit of this question, the

manuscript's central figure confronts her body as both painful and beautiful, as environment, enemy, and home. Through a range of speakers and subjects, she explores the intricacies of identity, family, and intimacy.

D.A. Navoti is an indigenous prose writer and educator. His work has been featured in *Indian Country Today*, *The Explicator*, *Jack Straw Anthology*, *Spartan*, and elsewhere. He is a member of the Gila River Indian Community, a descendent of Hopi, Pima, Zuni, and Yavapai-Apache tribes, and holds graduate degrees in Liberal Studies and Literacy & Rhetoric from Arizona State and Northern Arizona universities.

Navoti is completing a first-draft narrative about pilgrimages to his desert motherland, exploring his ancestral roots and its conflict with his identities—as a gay atheist writer content with living away from the homeland.

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About Hugo House

Hugo House opens the literary world to everyone who loves books or has a drive to write—giving people a place to read words, hear words, and make their own words better through writing classes, readings and events, and residencies.

More Info

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Open hours: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and during classes and events