



**For Immediate  
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## **Hugo House's Move to New Home Bookended by 2017-2018 Hugo Literary Series**

**SEATTLE, WA**—Hugo House is excited to announce the writers appearing for the 2017–2018 season of the Hugo Literary Series, which will feature new work from **Meghan Daum, Jericho Brown, Joshua Ferris, Jami Attenberg, Porochista Khakpour, Tarfia Faizullah, Melissa Febos**, and more.

The Hugo Literary Series presents new work on a theme, commissioned by Hugo House, from established and emerging writers and a local musician or band. Free from the usual channels of an editor, publisher, or reviewer affirming the work before its presented, the writers and musicians take risks, resulting in one-time-only performances.

The themes for the upcoming season are organized around the larger theme of real estate—from pragmatic issues like property value to the more nebulous idea of place; the season coincides with Hugo House's move to a new and permanent home on the same site of their old house, which was demolished in June of 2016 to make way for a mixed-use development.

The Hugo Literary Series kicks off at Fred Wildlife Refuge on September 15, 2017 with "**Sequels**," featuring a master of the personal essay and author most recently of *The Unspeakable: And Other Subjects of Discussion* **Meghan Daum**; poet **Solmaz Sharif**, whose debut collection, *Look*, was a National Book Award finalist; and Seattle-based writer, journalist, and author of the novel *Foreign* **Sonora Jha**; with new music from alt-country singer-songwriter **Joy Mills**.

"**Area Protected by Neighborhood Watch**" follows on November 10, 2017 at Fred Wildlife Refuge, featuring acclaimed poet **Jericho Brown**; Iranian American novelist **Porochista Khakpour**, author of the critically acclaimed novels *Sons and Other Flammable Objects* and *The Last Illusion*; and Seattle-based poet-performer and co-creator of the witty Vis-

à-Vis Society **Rachel Kessler**; with new music from artists to be announced.

On March 23, 2018 the Literary Series continues in the new Hugo House auditorium with “**Homecoming**,” featuring National Book Award finalist **Joshua Ferris** and author of the critically acclaimed books *Whip Smart* and *Abandon Me* **Melissa Febos** with a local writer and musician to be announced.

The Series closes on May 11, 2018 in the new Hugo House auditorium with “**There Goes the Neighborhood**,” featuring author of the New York Times bestselling novel *The Middlesteins* **Jami Attenberg** and award-winning Bangladeshi American poet **Tarfia Faizullah** with a local writer and musician to be announced.

In addition to events, visiting writers for the series also teach one- or two-day writing classes at Hugo House.

All events start at 7:30 pm, and drinks and books will be available for purchase. More information on events and classes can be found at [hugohouse.org](http://hugohouse.org).

### **About the Writers**

**Jami Attenberg** is the author of a collection of stories, *Instant Love*, and the novels *The Kept Man*, *The Melting Season*, *The Middlesteins*, *Saint Mazie*, and *All Grown Up*. *The Middlesteins* was a New York Times bestseller, a finalist for both the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction and the St. Francis College Literary Prize, and has been optioned by Showtime. Her writing on sex, technology, design, books, television, and urban life appears in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, Lenny Letter, and elsewhere.

**Jericho Brown** is the recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Brown’s first book, *Please*, won the American Book Award. His second book, *The New Testament* (Copper Canyon), won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was named one of the best of the year by Library Journal, Coldfront, and the Academy of American Poets.

**Meghan Daum** is the author most recently of *The Unspeakable: And Other Subjects of Discussion*, which won the 2015 PEN Center USA Award for

creative nonfiction. She is also the editor of the New York Times bestseller *Selfish, Shallow & Self-Absorbed: Sixteen Writers on the Decision Not To Have Kids*. Her other books include the essay collection *My Misspent Youth*, the novel *The Quality of Life Report*, and *Life Would Be Perfect If I Lived In That House*, a memoir. She has written for numerous magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, and *Vogue* and is an opinion columnist at *The Los Angeles Times*.

**Tarfia Faizullah's** first book, *Seam*, won the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award. Her second book, *Registers of Illuminated Villages*, is forthcoming from Graywolf Press in March 2018. Her honors and awards include a Fulbright fellowship, an Associated Writers Program Intro Journals Award, a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Prize, a Copper Nickel Poetry Prize, a Ploughshares' Cohen Award, and a Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Margaret Bridgman Scholarship in Poetry.

**Melissa Febos** is the author of the memoir *Whip Smart* (St. Martin's Press) and the essay collection *Abandon Me* (Bloomsbury). Her work has been widely anthologized and appears in publications including *Tin House*, *Granta*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Bitch Magazine*, *Poets & Writers*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. She has been featured on NPR's Fresh Air, CNN, Anderson Cooper Live, and elsewhere.

**Joshua Ferris** is the bestselling author of three novels, *Then We Came to the End*, *The Unnamed*, and *To Rise Again at a Decent Hour*. He was a finalist for the National Book Award, winner of the Barnes and Noble Discover Award and the PEN/Hemingway Award, and was named one of *The New Yorker's* "20 Under 40" writers in 2010. His fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, and *Best American Short Stories*. He lives in New York.

**Sonora Jha** is the author of the novel *Foreign*, published in 2013 by Random House India. She is a professor of journalism and media studies at Seattle University. Formerly a journalist in India and Singapore, her recent political essays and Op-Eds have been published in *The New York Times*, the *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Weekly*, and the *Globalist*. Apart from her academic and journalistic writing, she is currently finishing work on a memoir. Sonora is a current Hugo House writer-in-residence.

**Rachel Kessler** is a founding member of the Typing Explosion, Vis-à-vis Society, and LOCCAL (League Of Citizens Concerned About Literature).

Her writing, visual art, and poetry have appeared in *The Stranger*, *The Open Daybook*, *Sea-Cat*, *Poetry Northwest*, *The Monarch Review*, *Tin House*, *TATE*, *USA Today*, and elsewhere. The Frye Art Museum and the Bellevue Art Museum have featured her collaborative installations. Her literary performances have premiered at The Bowery Poetry Club and the Poet's House through the New York Public Library, the Art Institute of Chicago, University of Arizona Poetry Center, as well as during the 50th Venice Biennale.

**Porochista Khakpour** is the author of the forthcoming memoir *Sick* (Harper Perennial, May 2018) and the novels *The Last Illusion*—a 2014 “Best Book of the Year” according to NPR, Kirkus, BuzzFeed, Popmatters, Electric Literature, and more—and *Sons and Other Flammable Objects*—the 2007 California Book Award winner in First Fiction, a Chicago Tribune “Fall’s Best,” and a New York Times “Editor’s Choice.”

**Solmaz Sharif**'s first poetry collection, *Look*, published by Graywolf Press in 2016, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her work has appeared in *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *The Kenyon Review*, *jubilat*, *Gulf Coast*, *Boston Review*, *Witness*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a “Discovery”/Boston Review Poetry Prize, NEA and Stegner fellowships, and has most recently been selected to receive a 2014 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award as well as a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship.

### About the Hugo Literary Series

Since 2007, Hugo House has commissioned new writing and songs from a theme and writing prompt. The nights are collages of unexpected styles and different points of view, and the writers and musicians are encouraged to work without a sense of obligation, censorship, or stylistic frame. No one sees or hears the work before it is read or performed at the events for the very first time. Past Literary Series writers have gone on to have their commissioned pieces published or anthologized in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The Iowa Review*, and *Freeman’s*. Following her performance during the 2014–2015 series, Sheila Heti called the series “real and genuinely literary” and “one of the most creatively exciting series” she’s been a part of.

## 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 for adults and youth, readings and events, and residencies and fellowships.

## More Info

[Hugohouse.org](http://Hugohouse.org)

[Facebook.com/HugoHouse](https://www.facebook.com/HugoHouse)

Twitter: [@HugoHouse](https://twitter.com/HugoHouse)

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