



For
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Contact: Kristen Steenbeeke
kristens@hugohouse.org

Twitter: @HugoHouse | @ksteenbeeke

Word Works returns for a third season

Event Dates

Ellen Bass on controlled chaos: Sept. 23
Benjamin Percy on blending genre: Nov. 4
Maggie Nelson on writing the body: Jan. 28
Daniel Handler on writing as burglary: March 3
Kevin Young on throwing your voice: April 28
Domingo Martinez on fearlessness: May 26

SEATTLE, WA—Word Works, a series of writing-centric craft talks at Hugo House, will feature in its 2015-16 season fiction writer **Daniel Handler**, nonfiction writer and poet **Maggie Nelson**, fiction writer **Benjamin Percy**, poet and nonfiction writer **Ellen Bass**, poet **Kevin Young**, and nonfiction writer **Domingo Martinez**.

Each event features an established writer talking about a topic of personal obsession and mastery. This year, the topics range from the conceptual—like “**fearlessness**” and “**the writing body**”—to the odd—such as “**writing as burglary**” and “**throwing your voice**”—to the wild—such as “**controlled chaos**” and “**blending genre.**” Although the speakers identify more strongly with a specific genre in their own writing life, the talks are designed to apply to all writers.

“This series is the most writerly thing we present here, and wildly various,” Executive Director Tree Swenson said. “Past Word Works events have included creative PowerPoints, videos, examples from a writer’s own work, examination of other writers’ work, and more.”

After each talk, the writers will participate in a Q&A with a local writer, editor, critic, or arts administrator; the audience is encouraged to ask questions, as well. In addition to giving a talk, the writers will teach classes—on sale to the general public—related to their craft talks.

Events will begin at 7 p.m. in the theater. The bar will be open, and books will be for sale.

More info, along with links for ticket purchase, can be found on [Hugo House's website](#).

About the Authors

Ellen Bass's most recent book of poetry, *Like a Beggar*, was published in April 2014 by Copper Canyon Press. Her previous poetry books include *The Human Line*, named a Notable Book by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Mules of Love*, which won the Lambda Literary Award. Her nonfiction books include *The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse*, which has sold over a million copies and has been translated into ten languages.

Benjamin Percy is the author of three novels, most recently *The Dead Lands*, a post-apocalyptic reimagining of the Lewis and Clark saga. He is also the author of *Red Moon* and *The Wilding*, as well as two books of short stories. His honors include a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Whiting Writers' Award, two Pushcart Prizes, the Plimpton Prize, and inclusion in Best American Short Stories and Best American Comics.

Maggie Nelson is the author of five books of nonfiction and four books of poetry. Her 2011 book of art and cultural criticism, *The Art of Cruelty: A Reckoning*, was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year and Editors' Choice. Her other nonfiction books include *The Argonauts* and the cult hit *Bluets*. Her poetry has been widely anthologized. Her books of poetry include *Jane: A Murder*, a finalist for the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for the Art of Memoir, and *Shiner*, a finalist for the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award.

Daniel Handler is a columnist for the *Believer* where his "What the Swedes Read," about reading one book by each Nobel Laureate, appears in each issue. His novels *We Are Pirates* and *Hurry Up and Wait* co-authored with Maira Kalman, are new this spring and have inspired a flurry of events. In the fall, the final installment of Lemony Snicket's (Handler's nom de plume) *All The Wrong Questions* series

will be published. Its sequel, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, is currently being developed by Netflix as an original series.

Kevin Young attended Harvard University, where he studied under Seamus Heaney and Lucie Brock-Broido. Three of his books form what he calls “an American trilogy”: *To Repel Ghosts*, which explores the paintings of Jean-Michel Basquiat; *Jelly Roll*, a collection of blues poems; and *Black Maria*, a film noir. His collection of essays, cultural criticism, and “lyrical chorus,” *The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness* (2012) won the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Domingo Martinez is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Boy Kings of Texas* and was a finalist for the National Book Award. The book has been optioned by HBO for an original series through Salma Hayek’s production company, Ventanarosa. Martinez’s work has appeared in *Texas Monthly*, *The New Republic*, *Saveur Magazine*, and more. He has also appeared on NPR’s *All Things Considered*, *This American Life*, and *The Diane Rehm Show*.