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## **Hugo House Announces Writer-in-Residence and Made Fellows for 2016–2017**

**SEATTLE, WA**—Hugo House announced today the writers selected for its two residency programs: **Sonora Jha**, a journalist-turned-novelist and professor at Seattle University, will serve as the prose writer-in-residence; the Made at Hugo House fellows are poet and writer **Gabrielle Bates**, poet and performer **Raye Stoeve**, writer and memoirist **Katie Lee Ellison**, writer and co-founder of APRIL **Willie Fitzgerald**, multilingual poet **Shankar Narayan**, and writer **Beryl Clark**.

As writer-in-residence, Sonora Jha will receive a monthly stipend and assist writers during free hour-long appointments while completing a memoir, *This Little Matter of Love*, which explores patriarchy, feminism, and journalism in India and centers around raising her son to be a loving feminist while struggling with her own love for her family and country. Jha has written on India and its troubled politics previously, in her debut novel, *Foreign*, as well as in pieces for *The New York Times*, the *Seattle Times*, and others.

“A big part of my excitement over this residency is the opportunity to mentor other writers and grow the outreach of Hugo House,” writes Sonora Jha. “As a woman writer and professor of color whose research and active service work is rooted in representation, I am particularly excited also about extending the reach of Hugo House into under-represented communities in Seattle to clear the path for such writers to emerge in mainstream, meaningful, and lasting (rather than token) ways.”

Made at Hugo House is a yearlong fellowship for emerging writers who are selected by an anonymous advisory panel of writers. The six fellows will complete writing projects during their fellowship with guidance and support from Hugo House.

Bates will work on revising a collection of poems, a book of poetry comics and a young adult novel. While the genres blend and tones vary, each of Bates’ projects is invested in the interplay between text and image. Stoeve,

a queer transgender poet and performer, will complete the first draft of a young adult novel that follows the main character through high school's senior year while navigating the challenges of coming out as transgender; Ellison will work on a memoir of essays that explores the intersection of Hollywood fantasy, alcoholic escapism, and the inheritance of a Jewish identity; Fitzgerald will work on a novel set in Seattle that follows a man's search for a missing painting completed by his brother right before his disappearance; Narayan will work on a chapbook of poems on the themes of technology, race, and power; and Clark will complete a novel written as verse, *Dust Mounthead*, in which she explores the relationships in a family unit of religious outsiders.

The fellows will spend the year honing their craft in various complimentary Hugo House classes, meeting with writers-in-residence Anastacia Tolbert and Sonora Jha, workshopping each other's writing, and making use of the private writing offices in the House. The fellows will also give two readings: one at the half-year point and another at the culmination of the fellowship. Throughout the year, the writers will be given advice on finding an agent, applying for grants and residencies, and many other topics pertaining to the writing life.

The residency programs are a major component in Hugo House's mission to support writers throughout all stages of their writing life, from the emerging writers in the Made at Hugo House fellowships to established writers such as Hugo writers-in-residence.

### **About the Resident**

**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*.

### **About the Made at Hugo House Fellows**

**Gabrielle Bates** serves on the editorial board of the *Seattle Review* and *Broadsided Press*. She is an Indiana Review Poetry Prize finalist, Awesome Foundation grant recipient, and her work is published or forthcoming in *Best of the Net 2015*, *Missouri Review*, *New South*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Passages North*, *Guernica*, *Rattle*, *Southern Humanities Review*, and other journals. She graduated with her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Washington in June 2016.

**Raye Stoeve** is a queer transgender poet and performer born, raised, and based in Seattle. Rain City Poetry Slam is their poet home. Their poetry and essays have appeared in *YES! Magazine* and *SHIFT Queer Art & Literary Magazine*, among other publications. They most recently created a multimedia performance piece for Lion's Main Art Collective's Transience exhibition. Offstage, they work with youth as a teaching artist and in an after-school program.

**Katie Lee Ellison** received her BA from Wellesley College and her MFA from the University of Idaho, Moscow. Katie has pieces of her memoir-in-progress, entitled *Everything We Wanted*, appearing in *Shenandoah*, *Arcadia Magazine*, *Crab Creek Review*, and others.

**Willie Fitzgerald** is a co-founder of APRIL, an annual festival of small press and independent publishing. His work has appeared in *City Arts*, *Everyday Genius*, *Pacifica Literary Review*, and other places.

**Shankar Narayan** is a 2016 Kundiman Fellow whose work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. His writings appear or are forthcoming in *The Raven Chronicles*, *Litfuse Anthology*, and *Mochila Review*. Narayan draws strength from his tumultuous upbringing in countries as diverse as the USSR, Yugoslavia, Thailand, the Maldives, and India, and from his work as an attorney and advocate for civil rights.

**Beryl Clark** writes autobiographical poetry, prose, and cross-genre works. She graduated from the University of Montana with emphases in psychology and creative writing. Her writing currently explores queerness, religion, oppression, families, psychological abnormalities/normalities, feminism, humanism, environmentalism, and food. Her future writing interests include magical realism and animal perspectives. She spends her time in Seattle and Victoria, B.C.

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## About Hugo House

Hugo House opens the literary world to everyone who loves books or has a drive to write, providing creative writing classes, residencies, and events. It is a place to read words, hear words, and make your own words better.

## More Info

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

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Open hours: Monday through Saturday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.