

FY 2018
Playwriting
Panel Biographies

Clarence Coo is a recipient of a 2017 Whiting Award and the 2012 Yale Drama Series Prize. His plays include *Beautiful Province (Belle Province)*, *The Birds of Empathy*, *The God of Wine*, *People Sitting in Darkness*, *Bahala Na*, *Braids*, *Proof Through the Night*, and *Removing the Glove*. His work has been developed at the Atlantic Theater Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Lark's Playwrights' Week, New York Theatre Workshop, Ma-Yi Theatre, New Dramatists, Second Generation, the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, the New York International Fringe Festival, Mu Performing Arts, the Great Plains Theatre Conference, Round House Theatre, East West Players, the Mark Taper Forum, the Young Playwrights Festival, and the Kennedy Center. His work has also been published by Yale University Press, Temple University Press, the New Press, and Samuel French. Honors include a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, an Arena Stage Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship, an NEA Access to Artistic Excellence Grant, a Kennedy Center commission, and a Larry Neal Writers' Award. He received his MFA in Playwriting at Columbia University. He is a resident playwright at New Dramatists, a member of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, a 2016-2017 Playwrights Realm Fellow, a 2015-2016 Rita Goldberg Playwrights' Workshop Fellow at the Lark, and a 2012-2013 Dramatists Guild Fellow. He is also the manager of academic administration of Columbia's MFA Writing Program.

Edgar Shockley sees his unique contribution to the world as reconciling African and European theatrical aesthetics, allowing him to make us all more aware of what it means to be human. Because the scope of his vision is so wide, 30 years ago he set a goal for himself to write 100 plays. Shockley is the founder of the Temple Playwrights Lab, as well as the co-founder of the Philadelphia Dramatists Center, serving as the artistic director for more than ten years. His plays include *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, *The Oracle*, *Slave Narratives Revisited*, *The Corner*, *Badman*, *Stone Mansion*, and *Bobos*. Shockley has received numerous awards throughout his career, most notably a W. Alton Jones Foundation Grant, which he received with music collaborator James McBride, as well as a Richard Rogers Award and the Stephen Sondheim Award for Outstanding Contributions to American Musical Theatre. In 2005, he was awarded a Pennsylvania Arts Council Fellowship. Shockley continues to teach courses at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, as well as Rutgers University.

Kiran Kaur Saini is a writer, artist, and film industry professional living in Los Angeles, California. She writes short fiction and novels, paints plein air watercolors, works in film production, and teaches and mentors emerging script supervisors for film, television, and commercials. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Glimmer Train*, *Pleiades*, and *Chelsea Magazine*. She has been supported by the North Carolina Council of the Arts, the Headlands Center for the Arts, and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program.