

THE COMPARATIVE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
INVITES YOU TO

The Literature and Human Rights Lecture Series

Emmett, Down in My Heart

CLARE COSS

Thursday, November 8, 2018 | 12:15–1:30 pm
Rosenthal Library, President's Conference Room #2

In *Emmett, Down in My Heart*, two women characters, Emmett Till's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley and a white teacher, Roanne Taylor, are affected by the 1955 kidnap, torture, and murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in the Mississippi Delta. Roanne is haunted by her silence and confronts her need to take responsibility and speak. Mamie Till-Mobley, through outrage and grief, is transformed from a private citizen to an activist for justice. Her insistence on an open casket sparked the modern civil rights movement.



CLARE COSS is a playwright, psychotherapist, and activist convinced that we have it in our power to create a just and safe world. "As a playwright, my tools are character and dialogue, conflict and story. My imagination often leads to women characters who go where the silence is. They are drawn to confront inaction and/or tyranny and to face the challenge to speak and act. Possibility, humor, and a quest for generosity sustain my vision. How do we see each other? How can we help to make the world a better place?"

She is a member of PEN, The Dramatists Guild, The League of Professional Theatre Women and the Columbia University Seminar on Women and Society. Clare served as Board Member for The Thanks Be To Grandmother Winifred Foundation. She enjoyed her long tenure as Poetry Editor for *Affilia*, a journal of women and social work, and worked with Judith Arcana as Co-Poetry Editor for the online magazine www.Onthelssues.com. Clare Coss' publications include: *Lillian D. Wald: Progressive Activist* (Feminist Press), which features the play and a selection of Wald's correspondence and speeches. Her anthology of lesbian love poems, *The Arc of Love* (Scribner), was a Lambda Literary Award Finalist.