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Author, historical impersonator visits Crystal Lake



By Lawrence Synett TribLocal reporter Yesterday at 1:17 p.m.



Author Clay Jenkinson signs a copy of his newest book for Cynthia Lopuszynski, head of adult services at the Crystal Lake Public Library. (Lawrence Synett/Tribune)

Author and historical impersonator Clay Jenkinson debut his newest work at the Crystal Lake Public Library Friday before two weekend performances at the Raue Center for the Arts.

His latest work, “The Character of Meriwether Lewis: Explorer in the Wilderness,” chronicles Meriwether Lewis’ life as an explorer and his death. It is Jenkinson’s eighth publication.

“I hope it starts a new conversation about Lewis and Clark,” he said, “and opens up new dialogue about the differences between the two captains.”

This was the ninth year Jenkinson made his way to Crystal Lake to participate in the Raue’s Great American Series. The shows are a joint fundraiser between the Raue and Crystal Lake Library Foundation.

“I’ve made friends here in Crystal Lake,” Jenkinson said of his most recent visit. “This is one of my favorite places to perform.”

Jenkinson is a humanities scholar and historical impersonator, known for his appearances in several Ken Burns PBS broadcasts. He’s also been a guest on “The Colbert Report.”

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