

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.cvbookfest.org



Tickets Now on Sale: Book Festival Hosts Fire-Eating Author!

Tickets are now available for the 2018 Chippewa Valley Book Festival's Dinner with the Author event that takes place on Friday, October 19. Tessa Fontaine, author of *The Electric Woman: A Memoir in Death-Defying Acts*, hosts the event that will anchor the 19th annual festival.

Fontaine's book debut is a memoir of five months in 2013 when she faced her largest fears. She joined "World of Wonders" as a fire-eating, snake-charming, escape-artist magician — with no prior snake or flame eating experience! Why would a 28 year old join a traveling show? Two years earlier, Fontaine's mother had a massive stroke leaving her unable to walk or talk. She had been an imposing force in Tessa's life; a painter by trade, who performed stunts on a surfboard. She was, Fontaine says, brave and wild. Tessa felt hopelessly inadequate for being neither. Tessa dealt with this trauma by looking fear in the face and joining the show, as a way of schooling herself in the character strength of bravery. If her mother could face her new life in a wheelchair, Tessa could face snakes and fire.

Fontaine's event will take place on Friday, October 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Richmond Room at the Lismore Hotel, in downtown Eau Claire. Tickets for the dinner are \$32 plus tax/fees and are available now at www.cvbookfest.org/tickets. The program portion of the evening, beginning at 8:00 p.m., is free and open to the public without a ticket.

Awards

Fontaine has won the 2016 AWP Intro Award in Nonfiction, the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick, the Amazon Editors' Best of the Month featured debut, the Truman Capote Award, and many fellowships.

Media

Additional information on Ms. Fontaine as well as photos and Chippewa Valley Book Festival logos can be found at: www.cvbookfest.com/media.

About the Chippewa Valley Book Festival

The Chippewa Valley Book Festival is a program of the Literary Arts Committee, in partnership with Pablo Center at the Confluence, the Eau Claire Regional Arts Council, the Eau Claire Area School District, L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire Foundation. Nearly 5,000 students and adults attend and participate in festival events, author visits in the schools, and the Young Writers Showcase. The positive image and family-friendly activities associated with the festival also benefit libraries, book stores, area businesses, and the local arts scene.

The 19th annual book festival will run October 15-25, 2018, hosting authors in locations all across the Chippewa Valley. See www.cvbookfest.org for times, authors and locations. Tickets on sale now for the four ticketed festival events: the Caroline Fraser and Kevin Young author events, the Mai Neng Moua lunch, and the Tessa Fontaine dinner. Available at: www.cvbookfest.org/tickets.

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