

We're using Crowdcast, an engaging live-streaming platform, to bring you this year's workshop.

A bonus: The sessions are automatically recorded, allowing you to view any (or all) up to a year afterwards.

You can find a quick reference guide at <https://bit.ly/31opHku>, but here are answers to FAQs about the platform:

Do I need to download any software?

Unlike Zoom, you do not need to download anything for most devices. Registrants will receive an email with a link 10 minutes before the event. However, at any time you can sign into the workshop (<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/virtual-erma-bombeck>) with the email address you used at registration.

What is the recommended browser?

Chrome is best. Firefox is also compatible.

Does Crowdcast work on mobile?

It works on Android devices, iPhones and iPads. However, for Apple devices, you must download Crowdcast mobile, a free app.

How do I choose sessions?

A scroll-down menu will appear in the top left corner. Simply choose what session you'd like to attend. For concurrent sessions, you can hop between them, if you'd like.

Will I be seen on the screen? (In other words, if I bounce between workshop sessions, will anyone see me leave my virtual seat?)

It's an interactive platform, but you will only be seen on the screen if you're called to the virtual stage to pitch a book proposal at Pitchapalooza, perform at Attendee Stand-Up Comedy Night or read your writing from exercises in sessions. Our technical consultant recommends you wear earphones or ear buds when you're on the stage.

When will replays be available?

The recordings will be available on the event page just a few minutes after the live stream ends.

How do I make the most of this virtual experience?

Please personalize your Crowdcast profile by changing the avatar to your photo and adding a brief bio. To do so, go to your profile page and click "edit." We also recommend that you change your username to your name, making it easier for our tech team to call you up to the stage. We encourage you to participate in the chat. Ask questions. Take our periodic polls. And most importantly — laugh and learn.

How can I share the workshop experience through social media?

Use our hashtag #VirtualErma.

Some of our sessions will be pre-recorded, but the majority are live. While watching a live session or a replay of it, click the "Clip moment" button on the bottom left. You'll be able to select a 15-second clip from the last five minutes. Simply drag the orange slider to find the start of the moment you'd like to share, give it a title, create the clip and share directly to social media.



crowdcast