

4-9-2024

## Keep Writing, Laughing and Believing

Wade Rouse

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# Keep Writing, Laughing and Believing

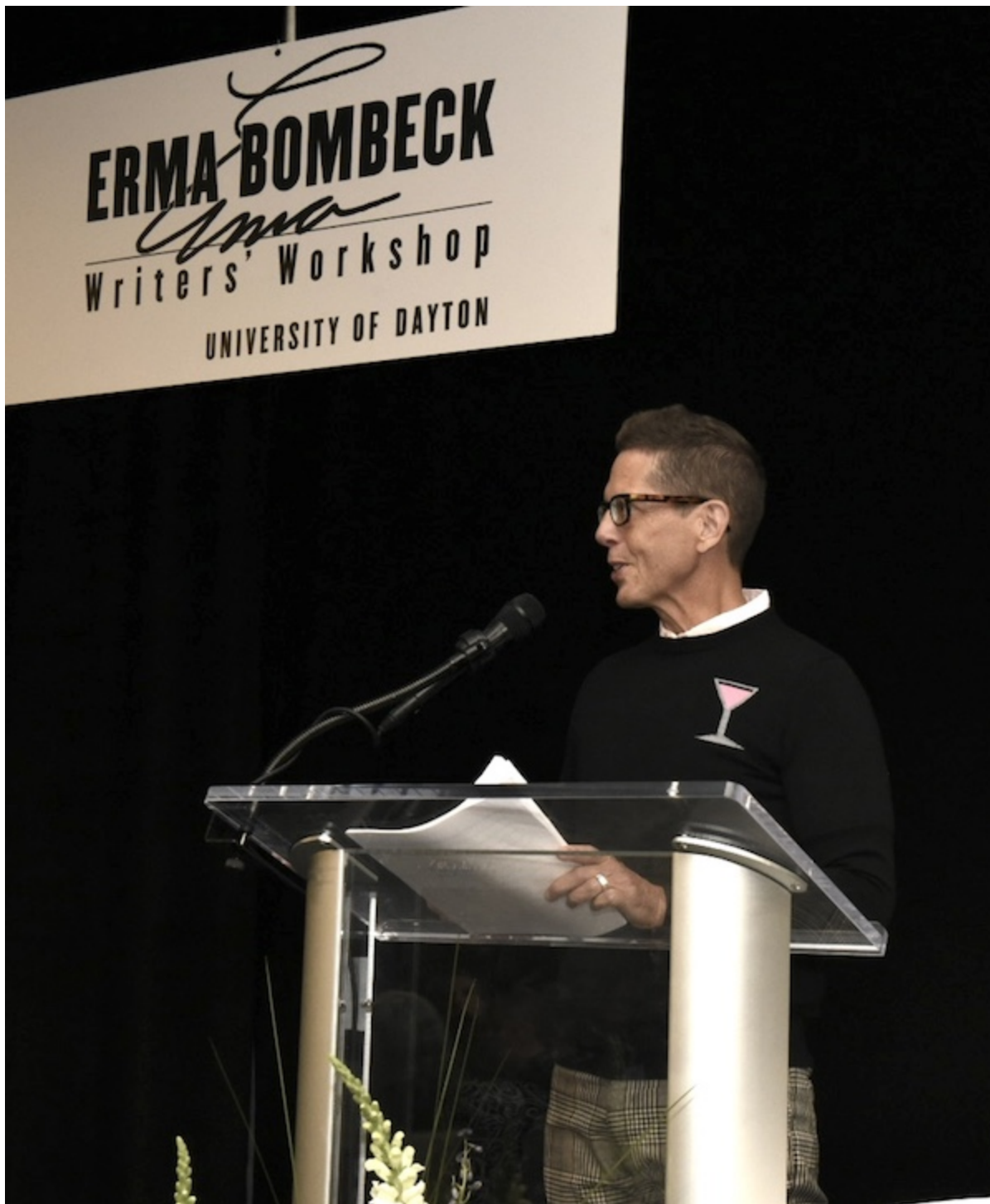
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Tuesday April 9, 2024

By Wade Rouse

"There's no straight line for a dream," Wade Rouse told writers in a poignant keynote talk to close the April 4-6 Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop.

“There is no timetable. Every story deserves to be told. Every voice deserves to be heard. The only thing holding us back is fear: It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else. I have that Erma quote on a plaque over my writing desk. The only things you need to succeed you already have inside of you: A history. A story. A unique voice. And a heart to guide you.”

**Read his full address.**

Rouse is the *USA Today* and *Publishers Weekly* bestselling author of five memoirs and 12 novels. He writes fiction under his grandmother’s name, Viola Shipman, to honor the Ozarks seamstress whose sacrifices changed his family’s life. *Writer’s Digest* has named him “The #2 Writer, Dead or Alive, We’d Like to Have Drinks With” (he was sandwiched between Ernest Hemingway and Hunter Thompson).

The next Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop is March 26-28, 2026.