

# ERMA BOMBECK:



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PRESENTS

A Suburban Outlaw Production

# *Erma Bombeck:* **At Wit's End**

STARRING

**PAM SHERMAN**

WRITTEN BY

**ALLISON ENGEL and MARGARET ENGEL**

DIRECTED BY

**MARK CUDDY**

SOUND DESIGN

**DAN ROACH**

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

**MICHELE HELBERG**

*Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

<http://www.concordtheatricals.com>

Originally developed for the stage with David Esbjornson

**RUNTIME:** Approximately 65 minutes, no intermission



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

# ABOUT THE SHOW

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The Suburban Outlaw production of *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End*, is a quick-witted, uplifting story recounting the life of America columnist and humorist, Erma Bombeck. The heart-warming, humorous biographical play is written by Allison Engel and Margaret Engel, directed by Mark Cuddy and stars film, television, and stage actress, and producer Pam Sherman as the nationally syndicated columnist, Erma Bombeck.

One of America's most beloved humorists, Erma Bombeck was widely known as, "the woman who made women laugh." Equal parts wife, mother, daughter, and "domestic demigoddess," she gave voice to the everyday joys and struggles faced by women of all ages.

The play draws its title from Bombeck's popular "At Wit's End" nationally syndicated column, which was published in 900 newspapers nationwide. The story recounts the voice of a generation of unheard homemakers who elevated their joys and struggles to a platform where they could be seen and heard. A story about an equal rights activist known for telling tough truths and finding humor in them, *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* celebrates a remarkable woman who reminded us all how to embrace whatever life throws at us.

## SUBURBAN OUTLAW® PRODUCTIONS

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Suburban Outlaw® Productions was formed to support all creative content of Pam Sherman, AKA, The Suburban Outlaw®, including columns on the USA Today Network in more than 50 Gannett newspaper for 15 years as well as podcasts, keynotes and programs presented globally. Managed by Neal Sherman, AKA the husband, who is the Founder and CEO of TAGeXBrands [www.tagexbrands.com](http://www.tagexbrands.com). Over three decades TAGeXBrands has grown into the world's largest aftermarket for restaurant and food service equipment providing facility and equipment management to restaurants, supermarkets, and retailers, among others. Sherman has a BA from American University, MBA from New York University, and is a Fellow of the Culinary Institute of America. Neal Sherman has been Pam Sherman's partner and cheerleader for over 40 years (celebrating 40 years married in December!) in both life and work and especially in raising their two adult children Zach and Eliza and in loving more than anything, his little dogs.

**PAM**  
SHERMAN

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LIVE.  
CREATE.  
TELL THE STORY.  
REPEAT.



# WHO'S WHO

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**PAM SHERMAN (Erma Bombeck)** is a writer, actor, leadership consultant and former lawyer whose story of leaving her day job as a lawyer to pursue her dream as an actress was featured in People Magazine. Upon leaving the law to become an actor, she attended the British American Drama Academy at Oxford University and The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater. Sherman has performed in theater, film, and television, including NBC's, *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, the long-running play, *Shear Madness* at the Kennedy Center. Her portrayal of Erma Bombeck in the one-woman show *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* played to sold-out audiences and broke box-office records around the country. Her regular nationally syndicated column, The Suburban Outlaw was published for 15 years in Gannett's Democrat + Chronicle and on the USA Today Network. Sherman works with leaders all over the world helping them play themselves – the role of a lifetime. [www.thepamsherman.com](http://www.thepamsherman.com)

**ALLISON ENGEL (Playwright)** has been a reporter for the Des Moines Tribune, San Jose Mercury and Pacific News Service, and a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. She was a speechwriter for former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack and lieutenant governor Sally Pederson and president of the Des Moines Playhouse. She and her twin Margaret wrote the play *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins*, which had its world premiere at Philadelphia Theatre Company with Kathleen Turner in the title role, where it broke the theatre's box office record. The play went on to Arena Stage, Geffen Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, Zach Theatre, and many others. She was director of communications at the University of Southern California and associate director of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities. She holds an MA in screenwriting from USC. Earlier, she co-wrote *Food Finds: America's Best Local Foods and the People Who Produce Them* with her twin, and adapted the book into a show on Food Network, where it ran for seven years.

**MARGARET ENGEL (Playwright)** directs the Alicia Patterson Journalism Foundation and was the managing editor of the Newseum. She was a reporter for the Washington Post, Des Moines Register and Lorain Journal, and was a Nieman fellow at Harvard. She and her twin wrote the play *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins*, which has played at several theatres nationwide. In 2017, the two authors wrote a book with Reise Moore, *Thrifty Style: The Ultimate Bargain Shopper's Guide to Smart Fashion* that included input from several costume designers. She and her husband, Bruce Adams, wrote three editions of a Fodor's travel guide to America's baseball parks. She has served on the board of Theatre Washington/Helen Hayes Awards, the Fund for Investigative Journalism, and chairs the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism awards board. She is a member of the Nieman Foundation board.

**MARK CUDDY (Director)** has directed over one hundred plays and musicals across the country including *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* starring Pam Sherman at Geva Theatre where he served as Artistic Director for twenty-seven years. Among many others, his recent directing work includes *Constellations*, *Ring of Fire*, *Once*, *The Humans*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Good People*, *Sweeney Todd*, and from 2010-2023 the annual Geva production of *A Christmas Carol* for which he also wrote the adaptation. Cuddy was part of the Denver Center Theatre Company staff for its first three years, 1979-1982, before a four-decade career as an artistic director.

**MICHELE HELBERG (Production Coordinator)** is thrilled to be back working at DCPA. When not with the *Erma Bombeck: Wit's End* team, she is the tour manager of Dixie's Tupperware Party and all things Dixie Longate. She has also served as company manager of the Off-Broadway production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, as well as the associate GM of the Boston, San Fran, & Chicago companies and as ACM on Broadway's *Man of La Mancha* and the national tours of *All Shook Up* and *Whistle Down the Wind*.

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