



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

Renaissance Theaterworks' New York City Adventure

***Thanks to your support, our Member Groups can
showcase their talent across the nation!***

This summer, Renaissance Theaterworks earned an exciting opportunity: to perform in the Samuel French Off Off Broadway (OOB) Festival. The Festival is New York's oldest, continuous short play festival and has attracted submissions from the U.S. and abroad.



Cast and crew of *Lucky Numbers* at Classic Stage Company



oob.samuel french.com

This year, the Festival received 1,500 submissions, a record-breaking number since it began in 1975. Only 30 submissions are selected as semi-finalists and invited to perform in New York City.

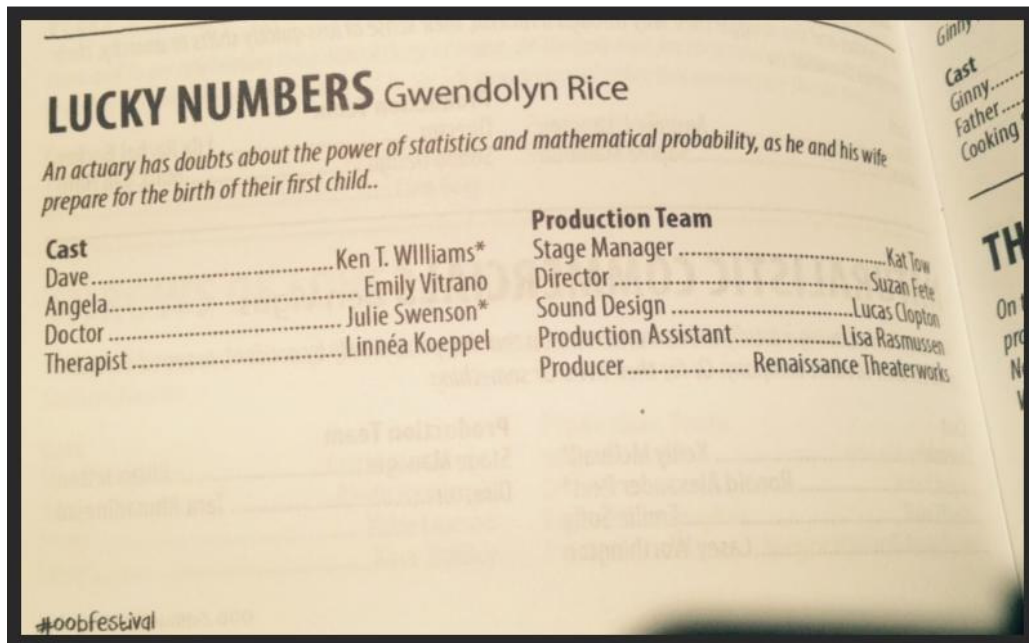
Performance sessions take place during the Festival Week, in which three or four scripts are presented to a judging panel comprised of theater industry professionals, including artistic directors and major playwrights. Following the judges' deliberation, a number of finalists are selected to perform again. Six of the finalists' short plays are awarded with publication and licensing in the OOB Festival Play series.

Read on to learn about Renaissance Theaterworks' success in the Festival!

***Lucky Numbers* Selected as One of 12 Finalists**

Lucky Numbers, written by Madison playwright Gwendolyn Rice, illustrates an actuary's doubts about the power of statistics and mathematical probability, as he and his wife prepare for the birth of their first child.

Rice was invited to produce *Lucky Numbers* as one of 30 semi-finalists in the Samuel French OOB Festival. **She asked Renaissance Theaterworks to join her in production and they happily agreed.**

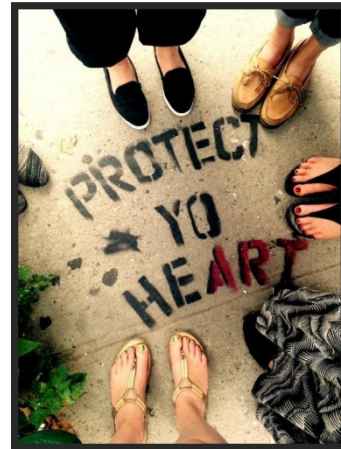


OOB Festival Program

After performing on Wednesday, Aug. 5, *Lucky Numbers* was chosen as one of 12 finalists. The play was performed again the following Saturday as part of the Finalists Performance. Despite not making it to the final six plays for publication, Rice and Renaissance Theaterworks were ecstatic to be one of 12 finalists out of 1,500 submissions. Plus, their adventure in NYC was pretty fun too!

"My favorite part of the trip was walking over to the theater before our first performance. We were in New York, on our way to do our show and you could just feel the energy of the city behind us. It was really special," said Emily Vitrano, cast member of *Lucky Numbers* and development manager at UPAF.

"I think it speaks volumes about the quality of Renaissance Theaterworks and all of our performing arts organizations in Milwaukee. Not only was Gwen's piece selected, but that the piece made it so far in the competition was amazing. That's why the arts are so important, because they put our city on the map and tell our story in a very unique way."



Street art in New York City

Cast and Production of *Lucky Numbers*

Renaissance Theaterworks Artistic Director Suzan Fete & Artistic Associate Mallory Metoxen co-directed *Lucky Numbers*. Lucas Clopton was the production's sound designer (design credits include Blue Barn, First Stage, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and more). The play's stage manager was Kat Tow and the production manager was Lisa Rasmussen.



The cast, playwright and sound designer of *Lucky Numbers*

The cast included a group of wonderful actors:

- **Ken T. Williams (as Dave)** seen onstage with Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Uprooted Theatre and First Stage
- **Emily Vitrano (as Angela)** seen onstage with Renaissance Theaterworks, Splinter Group, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and The Milwaukee Rep
- **Julie Swenson (as Doctor)** seen onstage with Forward Theater and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
- **Linnéa Koepfel (as Therapist)** seen onstage with Fireside Dinner Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre and In Tandem Theatre

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