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### PRESS CONTACTS

Robin C. Gillette  
Executive Director  
robin@fringefestival.org  
Office (612) 872-1212  
Cell (612) 703-6168

Matthew Foster  
Communications Director  
matthew@fringefestival.org  
Office (612) 872-1212  
Cell (612) 803-1340

# 386 applications set new Fringe record

## Minnesota Fringe lottery on Feb. 17 for 17th annual arts festival

**MINNEAPOLIS** — A record-breaking 386 applications were submitted to Minnesota Fringe for its 2010 festival, the organization announced today.

Coming off the heels of a 13 percent spike in attendance in 2009, applications to Fringe jumped 22 percent over last year.

In 2009, 317 performing arts companies submitted applications. The festival's previous record, set in 2007, was 327.

"Between last year's jump in attendance and now this jump in applications, I think it really shows how much of a demand there is for Fringe in Minnesota," said Robin C. Gillette, the festival's executive director.

A lottery determines the festival lineup. Each application is assigned a number and corresponding ping pong ball. All balls are drawn to determine both the lineup and a waiting list. Open to the public and streamed live at [fringefestival.org](http://fringefestival.org), the lottery takes place Wed., Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at Bedlam Theatre (1501 6th St. S., Minneapolis). Applications are not reviewed for content or producers' experience; the festival's participants are picked entirely by chance.

Approximately 150 production slots are available for this year's Fringe. The final number of production slots will be announced at the lottery, after festival venues are finalized.

Of this year's 386 applicants:

- 156 are first-time applicants to Minnesota Fringe
- 16 applications are from greater Minnesota
- National applications came from Hawaii, California, New York, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Washington, D.C.
- International applications came from the United Kingdom, Israel and multiple applications from Canada

"This is already shaping up to be a really interesting mix for the lineup," said Gillette. "We have a 60-40 split between veterans and newcomers, so we'll get a great balance between acts that have solid Fringe reputations and folks who haven't been seen by our audiences before."

"Our artists have done everything they can to get in," she said. "Now it's up to the gods of theater—and ping pong balls."

Minnesota Fringe celebrates its 17th anniversary in 2010. The festival takes place Thurs., Aug. 5 through Sun., Aug. 15 in Minneapolis and St. Paul.