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## 2011 Fringe lottery on Feb. 7

More than 350 applications for at least 160 production slots

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Fringe Festival is determining the lineup for its 2011 festival at a public lottery on Mon., Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

The lottery is free and open to the public at Bryant-Lake Bowl Cabaret Theater, 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis. Additionally, a live video stream will be available at [fringefestival.org](http://fringefestival.org), and results will be available in real time through Fringe's Twitter account (user name: mnfringe).

Over 350 applications were received in the Fringe office by the application deadline: 5 p.m. on Fri., Jan. 28. This year, three lotteries will be held to fill the available regular production slots in three categories broken out by small, medium and large venue sizes. A smaller fourth lottery will be held for site-specific works in Fringe's bring-your-own venue program.

"Friday was the first big day of the festival's year," said executive director Robin C. Gillette. "The last day we take applications is a small taste of the excitement of the festival. It's just this side of overwhelming in the office with producers dropping applications off, sending emails and faxing."

"It's thrilling to know so many people want to take part in Fringe," she said.

Fringe will draw applications to fill at least 160 production slots. Those applications that are not drawn will be placed on wait lists separated by venue category.

The percentage of greater Minnesota, national and international applications remained the same from last year, as did the percentage of applicants intending to produce shows aimed at kids and teens. The percentage of applicants identifying as artists of color increased from 2010, from 5 to 8 percent.

"Our outreach efforts to Minnesota's artists outside the Twin Cities and to Minnesota's artists of color are paying off," said Gillette. One of Fringe's new initiatives for artist support this year is a number of Arts and Cultural Heritage scholarships for Minnesota-based artists of color.

The annual performing arts festival issued over 50,000 tickets in 2010, making it the largest festival in Fringe's 18-year history. The 2011 festival takes place Thur., Aug. 4 through Sun., Aug. 14 in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The festival schedule will be published on July 1 at [fringefestival.org](http://fringefestival.org).