“From the tectonic pressures of rehabilitation and recovery
A theatrical diamond has been born.”

You’re bringing a play to the United Solo festival, can you tell us about it?
In December of 2017, just before Christmas, I had a stroke which affected my speech, reading, hearing, and comprehension. I felt deeply lost, hopeless, frightened, and helpless during my illness. With STROKE OF LUCK, I have crafted a way to tell the story, going back and forth in time, in monologues and song.

When did you realize you wanted to turn your experiences into a play & why?
After my stroke I wanted so badly to simply return to being my ‘old self’, but my brain just seemed broken. Well, it was. Nonetheless, I dug deep into my rehabilitation and recovery. With the encouragement of my friends, I gave myself the big crazy task of telling the tale of what happened to me and transformed my life… out loud… with music… to an audience! When the idea of STROKE OF LUCK was born it was a ridiculous idea – as I could barely read or write, and speaking was quite difficult! But I’m a performer – what else could I do? Believe it or not, the show premiered in Los Angeles last year, just 10 months after my stroke. The miracle of that is not lost on me.

You describe the play as containing universal truths...
Well, of course, not everyone has had a stroke, but most people have been touched by this illness because of a close family member, co-worker, or friend having had one. Many people die every year from strokes or never fully recover. But even bigger than that is the question of how you deal with any significant illness. The fact is – being severely ill strips your identity away. It is profound and painful. Who you are, or thought you were in this world, is gone. The loss of identity is a big theme in the show. Also, the loss of one’s “voice” is a very vulnerable thing that I think really resonates with people.
ABOUT US

a life

a creative voice

a performance

- interrupted by a stroke...

The stark drama of Farley's stroke, and subsequent rocky recovery, is woven into the fabric of a funny, fresh, and musical cabaret. This unexpected journey she takes us on is a unique story, yet full of universal truths. The realities and consequences of a stroke are brought to life as Farley cracks her life open and inspects it with bravery, music, and humor inspiring grateful audiences along the way.

A stroke of luck, indeed.

HIGHLIGHTS

STROKE OF LUCK is a Broadway World nominated show, for all ages and works especially well for those who have dealt with a stroke (i.e. medical professionals, recovering patients, and their families).

LENGTH

75 MINS + 15 MINUTES
Q&A = 90 MINS

GENRE

BIOGRAPHICAL / MUSICAL

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

• PIANO / KEYBOARD
• WIRELESS HANDHELD MIC AND STAND
• +2 EXTRA MICS
• 3 STOOLS
• 1 SMALL TABLE
REVIEW

“Undoubtedly the most remarkable performance of the year... a well-written, brilliantly performed, and emotionally powerful show” - BroadwayWorld

- NOMINATED FOR BEST FEMALE CABARET 2018

“Saints be praised, those signature pipes are as bell-clear and stunning as ever... in flawless command of her fresh and funny and touching and triumphant show” - StageSceneLA

RECOGNITION

- Broadway World - “Best Female Solo Show” (nomination)
- StageSceneLA - “Outstanding World-Premiere Solo Performance”
- VCOnstage - “Special Recognition in Theater” award
- “Farley Cadena rocks the house with laughter and pathos... You are a pioneer, Farley... in your exceedingly brilliant and important project” ~ Barry Pearl (Grease)
- “Perfect and brilliant... sharing [her] personal journey in such a creative and captivating way” ~ Jon Engstrom (Director/Choreographer, 42nd Street)
- “You have turned all these sour, hard, bitter lemons that life threw at you & turned them into a powerful, empowering, moving, delightful, charming, entertaining, sweet, and delicious lemonade. I didn’t even miss the vodka! Lemonade Stand is now open! ~ Jim J Bullock (Too Close For Comfort, Hollywood Squares)
- “It was more than a performance... it was superb... inspirational...” ~ Reams Freedman, Director - Stroke Association of Southern California
- “I’m glad a person like you can have a stroke and turn it into something amazing.” ~ Recovery After Stroke with Bill Gasiamis on iTunes
- “You discovered what your life’s work is about!” ~ Sheena Metal (LA Talk Radio) (Interview begins at 1:12:51)
STROKE OF LUCK
STARRING Farley Cadena

IF YOUR THEATER, CORPORATE EVENT, OR CHARITY IS INTERESTED IN BOOKING THE SHOW, OR A LECTURE,
PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AT BOOKING@STROKEOFLUCK.INFO OR 310.930.3871

How my brain broke & I crawled my way back