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Tuesday July 10, 2007

## LIFE

## Owego's aspiring filmmaker 'On the Lot' contestant one of 10 remaining

By [Monique Lewis](#)  
*Press & Sun-Bulletin*

It's official. Owego resident Kenny Luby Jr. is now a top 10 contestant in the reality TV series, "On the Lot."

One more contestant was eliminated from the show Monday night, leaving the 28-year-old one step closer to winning a \$1 million contract with DreamWorks. A weekly audience vote decides the fate of the contestants.

Luby's father, Kenny Luby Sr., felt pretty confident about his son's safety in the show late last week.

"He will make the top 10," Luby Sr. said. "That's pretty much guaranteed, just from what I saw. Kenny's that good. He's different. I know that no matter what happens on the show, somebody wants him (in Hollywood)."

Kenny Luby's submission film -- which was filmed in several Owego locations -- was one of more than 12,000 from around the world. In May, he was named a top 50 semifinalist and he has held his own since then. His submission film, "...so today...", is still the most viewed and discussed at [www.thelot.com](http://www.thelot.com).

Luby premiered his third film, "The Malibu Myth," on July 3. The horror film, which helped him stay in the competition, was about a couple who tried to investigate mysterious disappearances in the mountains of Malibu. People were turning into cannibals, and in the end, viewers learn that the cannibals were typing blogs about the disappearances to lure more victims.

"I added (the humor bit about the blogs) because it's kind of funny during the buildup," Luby said. "I felt that if I went serious with it, I wouldn't have pulled it off."

He said the highlight of his evening was when guest judge Eli Roth said Luby's film was his favorite. Roth's most recent film productions were "Death Proof," "Grindhouse" and "Hostel."

"To get a judge's pick, finally, it's a cool feeling," Luby said.

"The Malibu Myth" was Luby's first horror production, and it was his first time working with a professional crew. One of his actors was Tatyana Ali, who played Ashley Banks on the former TV sitcom, "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air."

During the July 3 episode, viewers saw Luby and the director of photography clash over creative differences during the filming of the two-minute horror movie.

### WHO IS KENNY LUBY JR.?

Birthplace: Long Island

Hometown: Owego

Age: 28

School: Owego Free Academy  
1997 alumnus

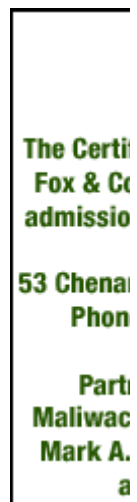
Occupation: Freelance director and painter

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"I'm kind of like a cinematographer myself," Luby said. "I've never been a director. That's why it was hard for me to let another guy jump in and film for me. It was real hard for me to multi-task with the (director of photography) and my actors."

Luby's prior films have also been consistently obscure. Judges said they didn't get his first film, "Wack Alley Cab," and judge Carrie Fisher said his second film, "Edge on the End," simulated a rock music video. Yet, judge Garry Marshall said Luby should stay "unique and crazy."

"I'm kind of out there," Luby said. "I'm not a conventional filmmaker and I never was and never will be. ... I'm staying true to myself."

Sometimes different is good to stand out in such a competition, said Owego Free Academy teacher Daniel Fabricius, who has watched Luby every week. Luby is a graduate of the school.

"I think it's great that anyone can get that far, especially a local person that has done so well," Fabricius said. "There are signs (around) town to vote for Kenny, and there's buzz about it."

Fabricius said Luby's submission film about skateboarding in Owego was "really good work" and that the judges may be looking at the potential Luby has. Another part of Luby's charm is that he's never been to film school.


Luby said he's learned to trust the experts, such as the director of photography, and that he can't control everything on set. However, he said he will make sure to be more involved with his actors during the next challenge.

"You got your whole crew that you (have to) deal with, and then you also have the whole 'On the Lot' crew filming you," Luby said. "For a lot of people, that can be a lot of pressure. I try to look at it in a good way and know you have all these people here for you to make a good film for you."

There is no room for error, Luby said. He only has a week to write, film and edit two-minute films. Luby said a lot of ideas that he comes up with don't fit that format and he will try to simplify his stories.

When asked about his success thus far, Luby said, "I feel really, really stoked."

**STORYCHAT** 

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