T9290 29TH STREET (USA, 1991)

Credits: director/writer, George Gallo; story, Frank Pesce, Jr., James Franciscus.
Cast: Danny Aiello, Lainie Kazan, Anthony LaPaglia.
Summary: Comedy/drama set in New York's Italian American community in 1976 with flashbacks thru the 1960s and 1970s. The story centers on Frank Pesce, Jr. (LaPaglia), an incredibly lucky man, who was the first winner of the New York lottery. But Frank Jr. has come to see good fortune as a curse. His luck started early. When his mother (Kazan) went into labor early she was rushed to a hospital different from the one where she had planned to give birth. That one burned down the same night. As a teenager, Frank Jr. was knifed by his Puerto Rican girlfriend's irate brother, but the wound revealed the existence a tumor which the doctors caught in time to save his life. He was classified 4F for the Vietnam War because his eccentricities were mistaken for lunacy by his local draft board (there is a scene at the draft physical exam). When Frank Jr. buys his first lottery ticket he becomes one of 50 finalists for the $6.2 million New York State Lottery jackpot. Unfortunately, Frank Sr. (Aiello) is in hock to a local crime boss for an overdue $10,000 gambling debt. The mobster is willing to make a deal with Frank Jr., and take the lottery ticket in exchange for his father's debt. Now Frank Jr. must make the biggest choice of his life.

Schwager, Jeff. “29th Street” Boxoffice 127 (Dec 1991), p. [R92]