

visit MADISON county, ny

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2026

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HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

18th Annual Festival Brings Global Cinema to Central New York, July 20–26, 2026



MADISON COUNTY, N.Y. — The Hamilton, New York International Film Festival (HIFF) returns for its 18th annual run from July 20–26, 2026, transforming the charming village of Hamilton into a destination for independent cinema from around the globe. Hosted at the historic Hamilton Theater (7 Lebanon Street), the week-long festival draws filmmakers and film lovers from across the U.S. and internationally for screenings, Q&As, director panels, and more.

Regularly recognized as a “Top 100 Best Festival” by FilmFreeway — the world’s largest film submission platform — HIFF screens features, comedy shorts, dramatic/thriller shorts, horror shorts, documentary shorts, Canadian shorts, and student films. The festival is produced by Slater Brothers Entertainment and is known for its intimate atmosphere, high-quality programming, and warm hospitality toward filmmakers.

Colgate University and other cultural landmarks throughout Hamilton serve as festival venues, set against the scenic Chenango Valley — just 3.5 hours from New York City and easily accessible via Syracuse Hancock International Airport.

Festival Details

- **Dates:** July 20–26, 2026
- **Location:** Hamilton Theater, 7 Lebanon Street, Hamilton, NY 13346
- **Tickets:** Available at the Hamilton Theater box office or www.hamiltontheater.net
- **More Info:** www.thehiff.com | filmfreeway.com/sbehiff

“The Hamilton International Film Festival is exactly the kind of event that makes Madison County such a special place to visit in the summer — world-class experiences in a setting that feels genuinely off the beaten path,” said Kaytlynn Lynch, Visit Madison County Executive Director. “Eighteen years of filmmakers and film fans returning to our backyard says everything about how special this region is, and the economic ripple effect on local tourism is real and meaningful.”

“Hamilton is a hidden gem for film — an intimate college town with a stunning historic theater and an audience that’s genuinely engaged with the work,” said Grant Slater of Slater Brothers Entertainment. “We’ve built something here that keeps filmmakers coming back, and that’s something we’re incredibly proud of.”

The Hamilton International Film Festival is one of several signature summer events drawing visitors to Madison County, NY. For a full calendar of events and trip planning resources, visit www.visitmadisoncny.com.



About Madison County Tourism

Visit Madison County, NY is the official Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) of Madison County, New York, promoting the region's natural beauty, rich heritage, and diverse attractions for over 30 years. As a designated New York State TPA, the organization promotes more than 300 attractions across the county. According to Tourism Economics, tourism generated \$146.4 million in direct visitor spending in Madison County in 2024.

Nestled in the heart of Central New York, Madison County is where adventure seekers, history buffs, antique lovers, foodies, and couples searching for the perfect wedding destination all find their place. Home to Chittenango Falls, the International Boxing Hall of Fame, the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum, Oz-Stravaganza®, and the legendary Madison-Bouckville Antique Week, Madison County delivers authentic experiences and small-town charm that keep visitors coming back. Plan your visit at www.visitmadisoncny.com.