



## 25 Years of Impact on Iowa

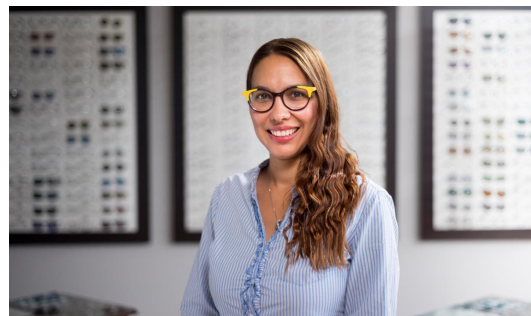
*"This kind of certainty comes but once in a lifetime."*

Twenty-five years after "[The Bridges of Madison County](#)" first lit up the big screen, we're certain it's made a lasting impact on Iowa. The movie was released in theaters June 2, 1995, and the rest is history.

This Iowa story was first a book by Rockford, Iowa, native Robert James Waller and then adapted for the screen by Hollywood director Clint Eastwood (pictured above with co-star Meryl Streep in a photo from Warner Bros. Pictures).

From the book, to the movie, to the annual festival in Winterset, to the thousands of tourists from around the world who flock year-round to Madison County businesses, it's amazing to consider the cultural and economic impact this film has had on our state.

We can't wait to tell more Iowa stories and create more homegrown films through our [Greenlight Grants](#), which we hope will make stars out of more Iowa filmmakers and communities.



## Lights, Camera & (Safe) Action!

Did you spot Iowa in the recent Bank of America ad narrated by Viola Davis? Check out our [blog](#) to learn what happened behind the scenes and how the national production company found a crew here in Iowa. (Hint: our [Media Production Directory](#)! It's where producers go to find help, even during a pandemic.)



## Outside of the Box

The [Julien Dubuque International Film Festival](#) was postponed in April, but now you can see some of the films online June 25-July 13. Many of this year's selected films will also be screened in person during the newly expanded 2021 festival. It's a great opportunity to catch unique films selected for Iowa audiences and another reason to look forward to next April.



## Artistic Films

The [Interrobang Film Festival](#) is moving forward even though its host, the Des Moines Arts Festival, has canceled its plans for later this month. Interrobang will be presented in real time June 26-28 through Vimeo. Anyone with a Smart TV, tablet, phone or similar device can download the free app to tune in. There will be lots of fun films from around the world, curated just for you.

## 'The Safe Way Forward'

The production unions and guilds have released a joint safety report as a follow-up to the [Industry White Paper](#) that was released on June 1. "[The Safe Way Forward](#)" is a 36-page report detailing safety guidelines for film and television

## MediaMaker: Ruth Mataya Gango

To celebrate the fifth season of "The Film Lounge," we decided to check in with some of our program alumni to see what they're up to now. We caught up with Season 2 contributor [Ruth Mataya Gango](#) of Dubuque through Zoom. She's a talented artist on many platforms who is getting ready to shoot her second short film this summer.



## Retro Cool

The [Des Moines Underground Film Festival](#) is all set for 9:30 p.m. Friday, June 26, at a pop-up drive-in theater in Ames. Count on a 90-minute mix of short films by Iowa artists as part of Art Week Des Moines. We can't wait to watch films again together (but safely apart) on a fun summer night!



## Save the Date & Save Money

The first-ever virtual [Iowa Arts Summit](#) on Aug. 7 will bring together artists, filmmakers, creative entrepreneurs, nonprofit professionals and community leaders for a day of networking, learning and celebrating the arts in Iowa. [Registration](#) is \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event, and [scholarships](#) are available for filmmakers. After registering, join the [Iowa Arts Summit Connections](#) Facebook group to start networking with your peers across the state.

productions that we encourage you to review. Good luck and stay safe!



## Upcoming Events

Many events across the state have been canceled, postponed or adapted to an online format. We'll keep you posted as we learn more details.

June 25-July 13: [Virtual Julien Dubuque International Film Festival](#)

June 26: [Des Moines Underground Film Fest](#)

June 26-28: [Virtual Interrobang Film Festival](#)

July 30-Aug. 2: [Snake Alley Festival of Film](#)

Aug. 7: [Iowa Arts Summit](#)

Aug. 8: [Iowa Motion Picture Association Awards](#)

Aug. 27-30: [Alternating Currents](#)

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