



County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

Joanne M. Mahoney
County Executive

ongov.net

Media Release

For Immediate Release: 6.1.2018

Contact: Justin Sayles (315) 435-3516

Onondaga County Announces the Creation of the “Greater Syracuse Soundstage”

*Collaboration between New York State and Onondaga County fosters growth in CNY film industry
with key contributions from local universities, film professionals, and regional arts council*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Onondaga County today announced the Greater Syracuse Soundstage Development Corporation will acquire the CNY Film Hub from Fort Schuyler Management Corporation (FSMC). Earlier today, the FSMC Board of Directors voted to authorize the transfer, which will allow the burgeoning facility to strengthen its role as the region’s premier Qualified Production Facility (“QPF”) and escalate its growth and work with greater collaboration from local colleges and professionals. The CNY Film Hub will be rebranded into the “Greater Syracuse Soundstage” to better reflect the mission of the facility.

The facility has hosted a dozen movies with several more in the works for this year. There have also been commercials, local projects and events relating to the film industry, including the CNY Film Professionals meetings and the IATSE Local 52 representatives hosted at the Soundstage. Economic activity from the films shot here so far is estimated between \$13 and \$15 million dollars. The State’s Film Production Tax Credit Program has helped to attract new projects and the infrastructure we now have has also generated outside investment from people like Filmmaker Jeremy Garelick who bought and renovated the A.V. Zogg Middle School in Liverpool into a local film school ([Jeremy Garelick’s Reel Deal for Liverpool School](#)).

“This is great news for the film industry in our community,” said **County Executive Mahoney**. “With these new partnerships and collaboration we are sure to see even greater success with the growing film industry in Central New York.”

Senator John A. DeFrancisco said, “The CNY Film Hub has great potential to bring in more economic development to our area. I feel the best way to maximize this potential is by having the film hub operate under local control. Therefore, I fully support the transfer of control of the CNY Film Hub to the Greater Syracuse Soundstage Development Corporation.”

The growth of the film industry has also led to the creation of the brand new group “CNY Film Professionals with hundreds of people quickly joining ([Film hub in DeWitt moves forward with CNY Film Professionals](#)) which eventually resulted in an effort to share the success story of working in film in Central New York ([Volunteer group scouts talent to help boost CNY film production](#)).

“The CNY Film Professionals organization, which has grown to more than 400 members in a few short months, congratulates New York State and Onondaga County for taking this important step,” said **Elias Gwinn, President of CNY Film Professionals**. “We anticipate that local control of the Greater Syracuse Soundstage will accelerate the growth in film industry job opportunities for our current and future members.”

“The art of filmmaking has tremendous potential to boost the economic vitality of Central New York,” said **Steve Butler, Executive Director of CNY Arts**. “As the region’s arts council, CNY Arts is pleased to see our State and County governments continuing to work together to create additional work opportunities for artists and craftspeople in film production and post-production.”

“We are excited by the possibilities for innovation, partnership and community development posed by this initiative,” said **Bea Gonzalez, Vice President for Community Engagement at Syracuse University**. “As a home for nationally renowned film studies and a truly cinematic campus, Syracuse University has been a launching pad for many film-oriented careers. A vibrant film industry in Central New York will provide more opportunities for our students, faculty and staff and further strengthen the connections between our university and the community. From the ‘Cuse Film Showcase and other film festivals, to global study opportunities in film, to the extraordinary facilities in recording, animation and our sound stage, Syracuse University has invested in the future of the film industry. We look forward to working with the County and the State of New York to advance the film production industry and to create new economic activity for our region.”

Central New York has seen the likes of Emma Roberts, John Cusack, Ron Perlman, Richard Dreyfuss, Dylan Sprouse, Josh Lawson, and Nathalie Emmanuel come here to film movies ([CNY Film Hub welcomes 'Asher,' hopes to attract more productions](#) - [It's a Wrap: Ron Perlman brings big movie studio to East Syracuse](#) - [New movie shooting at DeWitt Film Hub seeking extras](#) - [Behind the scenes of 'American Dresser' at CNY Film Hub](#) - [Star-studded movie being shot in the Syracuse area](#) - [Richard Dreyfuss seen in Syracuse, filming movie with Ron Perlman](#) - [On the set: Hollywood actors film on downtown Syracuse streets, in law office](#) - [Emma Roberts and John Cusack on Syracuse University campus shooting "Adult World"](#) - [Actor Dylan Sprouse spotted around Syracuse while filming new movie](#)).

###