



**2026 Hamilton Fringe Festival
FringeXchange
- BIPGM Artist -
Agreement**

Policies and General Information

Produced by Hamilton Festival Theatre Company (HFTco), the 2026 Hamilton Fringe Festival will run from July 15-26, 2026. Hamilton Fringe is a mid-sized festival with a supportive audience averaging in recent years around 25,000 attendees. In 2025, we paid out \$127,349.86 in box office returns to 53 local, national, and international companies.

For the purposes of this agreement, the Hamilton Festival Theatre Company organization may also be referred to as HFTco, Hamilton Fringe, and/or Hamilton Fringe Festival.

REVIEW THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY! The Hamilton Fringe application process includes confirming that you have read and understood this Artist Agreement in full. We recommend you print a copy now for your records.

By submitting an application, the Primary Contact agrees to abide by this Agreement.

If your application is successfully drawn on January 15th, 2026, you will be required to provide a signed copy of this Agreement to Hamilton Fringe within 48 hours of being notified.

Please note that all dollar amounts are indicated in Canadian currency (CAD).

Kindly direct any questions to HFTco Executive Director Christopher Stanton (christopher@HFTco.ca, 289-698-2234).

About the FringeXchange Program

Created in partnership with the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, the BIPGM Artist Lottery is designed to serve an artist who is Black, Indigenous, or and/or a Person of the Global Majority.

The BIPGM Artist category includes:

- FREE 60-minute performance slot at the 2025 Hamilton Fringe Festival (\$30 Application Fee and \$675 Participation Fee waived)
- A \$1,000 cash bursary to assist with production costs (amount may be greater depending on program funding)
- Tailored professional and/or artistic mentorship
- Regular meetings with the Executive Director
- Production and administrative guidance from Hamilton Fringe Festival core staff
- Access to a Mental Health & Wellness Coach throughout the term

(Please note that all above considerations are subject to change at the sole discretion of HFTco pending confirmation of program funding.)

Participation

Participation in the Hamilton Fringe Festival Main Series is determined randomly by lottery. Participation in the Indie Venue category (formerly “BYOV” or “Bring Your Own Venue”) is determined on a first-come-first-served basis.

Applications to the lottery must be received by: **January 12, 2026**

The lottery will take place on: **January 15, 2026**

The \$30 Application Fee is waived. The Hamilton Fringe Festival will notify you via email within 48 hours if you have been drawn in the lottery. The Participation Fee is waived.

This agreement applies to the following lottery category:

- FringeXchange - BIPGM Artist

Once this category is filled through the lottery draw, up to 12 applicants from each category will be placed on a waiting list. Should any company withdraw from the festival, the next eligible company on the waiting list will be contacted to fill the space.

Applications are accepted until January 11, 2026 at 11:59pm ET through online submission. The application form must be completed in full.

In addition to support specific to the FringeXchange Program listed above, if you are accepted into the Festival:

- You keep 100% of your net box office returns.
- In addition to support specific to the FringeXchange Program listed above, the Fringe provides: house management, ticketing, and box office volunteers.
- The Fringe provides: your venue, staffed by a Venue Technician.
- You will be included in all Fringe publicity: our program, on our website, and overall event publicity. The Publicity Form will be sent to you in the spring of 2025.

FringeXchange BIPGM Artist Lottery Eligibility

To be eligible for inclusion in the 2026 Hamilton Fringe Festival lottery for the FringeXchange - BIPGM category, the following criteria must be met:

- **Primary Contact must identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or a Person of the Global Majority.**
- **Primary Contact must reside in the City of Hamilton at time of application.**
- **Primary Contact must NOT have been selected by lottery to be a FringeXchange program participant within the last 2 years.**

For the purposes of this agreement, the City of Hamilton includes the communities of Hamilton, Ancaster, Dundas, Glanbrook, Flamborough, and Stoney Creek. See here for current municipal boundaries:

<https://open.hamilton.ca/datasets/city-boundary/explore>

For purposes of this agreement, your residence is the address provided in your Eventotron profile. It is your responsibility to ensure your contact information is current and correct. Hamilton Fringe Festival reserves the right to request proof of residence.

Applications that do not meet the above criteria will be removed from consideration. Please contact Christopher Stanton at christopher@HFTco.ca BEFORE submitting your application if you have any questions regarding your company's eligibility.

OPTIONAL - Entering Other Lotteries With Your Production (fees apply)

Only ONE company will be drawn by lottery in the FringeXchange - BIPGM Artist category.

In order to increase your chances of taking part in the 2026 Hamilton Fringe Festival, applicants in the FringeXchange - BIPGM Artist category may OPTIONALLY choose to also apply in the **Hamilton 60-Minute category**.

25% of lottery slots in each 2026 performance category shall be reserved for BIPGM-led companies (Indigenous artists, Black artists, and other artists of the Global Majority).

The Hamilton 60-Minute lottery will take place in stages:

1. Once all BIPGM Reserved slots are filled through the lottery draw—or no more eligible companies remain to be drawn (whichever comes first)—undrawn companies will be automatically entered into the Hamilton 60-Minute lottery.
2. Once the category in Stage 1 above is filled through the lottery draw, undrawn companies will be automatically entered into the Ontario 60-Minute lottery.
3. Once the category in Stage 2 above is filled through the lottery draw, up to 12 applicants from each category will be placed on a waiting list. Should any company withdraw from the festival, the next eligible company on the waiting list will be contacted to fill the space.

If you choose to **ALSO** enter the Hamilton 60-Minute category, a \$30 Application Fee will be charged and processed upon receipt. (If you are successfully selected in the FringeXchange lottery, this fee will be refunded and your application will be removed from any/all additional lottery categories.) If the \$30 Application Fee is a barrier to your entry in the Hamilton 60-Minute lottery category, please contact christopher@HFTco.ca to make alternate arrangements.

The Hamilton Fringe Festival will notify you via email within 48 hours if you have been drawn in the lottery in the Hamilton-60 Minute or Ontario 60-Minute category and **the full \$675 Participation Fee will be due immediately**. Please be prepared to have your funds available IN FULL as of January 15, 2026.

Responsibilities & Limitations for Primary & Secondary Contacts

- We will accept only ONE application per person/company name. Companies are not permitted to change their name after submitting their application.
- Primary and Secondary Contacts may be involved in only ONE production. If a Primary or Secondary Contact is listed in either role for multiple companies, all affected lottery applications may be considered forfeit and removed.
- **The Primary Contact CANNOT also be the Secondary Contact—your application must indicate two different people in these roles.**
- Fringe correspondence will only be sent to the Primary Contact. It is the Primary Contact's responsibility to pass information along to their team.
- Primary Contact must have authority to sign on behalf of the company.
- Only the Primary Contact is authorized to submit or make changes to company information.

As Primary Contact, it is your responsibility to:

- Share information with the rest of your company.
- Stay up to date on all Fringe Festival information.
- Ensure timely submission of all requested materials.
- Acquire all applicable permits and the payment of all applicable taxes and fees relating to your production at the Hamilton Fringe Festival.

It is the Primary Contact's responsibility to ensure emails from Hamilton Fringe Festival are not caught in your email provider's spam filters.

The Secondary Contact is required in case the Primary Contact cannot be reached or is not responding to time-sensitive information. The Secondary Contact must be prepared to take on reaching out to the Primary Contact and ensuring communications with the Hamilton Fringe Festival are being received and responded to. Please ensure your Secondary Contact has regular access to email and will be available for the duration of your time with the Festival.

Companies accepted into the Hamilton Fringe Festival cannot sell, offer, give, or transfer their spot to another company. If a company is found to have done this, both companies will be removed from the festival and the full application fee will be forfeit. Companies are not permitted to change their company name after submitting to the Festival.

Participating companies agree to return ALL FORMS AND

QUESTIONNAIRES ON TIME (ex: Publicity Questionnaire; Technical Questionnaire, Box Office Listing, Media Consent Form, etc.) or risk being inaccurately represented in Festival promotional materials, Box Office listings, or being in a venue that is not suited to the needs of the production.

Force Majeure: *If performances are delayed or interrupted by an act of God, fire, flood, war, public disaster, strikes or labour difficulties, governmental enactment, regulation or order, or any other cause beyond the control of the Hamilton Fringe Festival, the Festival shall not be liable for any lost revenues or performance times.*

Production Rights & Permission for Use of Materials Protected by Copyright

The Hamilton Fringe will not knowingly allow the production of a show without the permission of its creator(s). You are obliged to obtain written permission from the playwright/author/creator and pay any fees required for the production rights. Additionally, you are required to obtain written permission from the necessary sources for the use of any material protected by copyright that is used in the production or promotion of your show (ex: photographs, music, etc.)

As well, you are expected to obtain the necessary releases or pay appropriate fees to any professional associations to which you and/or your company members belong.

Failure to do so could result in disqualification without refund or written notice. Cancellation of your show due to lack of permission(s) or rights to your show or any materials used in the production or promotion of your show will result in forfeiture of your entire application fee.

Schedule and Show Length

Performances in this category may run to a **STRICT MAXIMUM of 60 minutes**. Performances running longer than this will be immediately stopped by the Venue Technician, and patrons will be asked to leave the venue.

There is no minimum show length. (Keep in mind, however, that audiences may perceive a lack of value-for-money if the show is “too short!”)

You will be required to indicate your show’s run time in your Technical Questionnaire (to be provided at a later date). **Once submitted, you may not**

adjust your run time.

Your show should be production-ready with simple technical and production requirements. The Hamilton Fringe Festival will schedule your company for seven (7) performances. The schedule as set by the festival is non-negotiable, and your company is required to abide by said schedule.

While other performers and crew may choose to be involved in more than one production, they will be responsible for ensuring that no scheduling conflicts prevent or interfere with any of your performances.

The Fringe will not adjust any scheduling to accommodate company members involved in the performance of more than one production in the festival.

You should plan to commit to the full run of the Fringe from July 15-26, 2026. You will have a 3-hour tech rehearsal scheduled sometime between July 11-15, 2026.

ALL companies will have a variety of performance start times between 4:00pm and 11pm weekdays and between 11am and 12 midnight on weekends.

Our opening night event (Opening Night Kick-Off) will be held on Wednesday July 15, 2026. The Kick-Off is your chance to promote your production with a (very short!) live pitch. We encourage all companies to participate. You will receive more details at a later date.

Venues

Each of our venues is unique in staging and seating capacity, with a guaranteed minimum capacity of 50 seats. Participants are encouraged not to budget for more than this capacity in determining their production expenses. If public health regulations in place at the time of the festival dictate that we reduce audience capacity in our indoor venues, your participation fee will be refunded on a pro-rata basis for each seat fewer than 50. You will be provided with site specifications and other details of your venue at a later date.

The festival reserves the right to move performing companies into a different venue without prior notice if deemed necessary.

Each venue will have basic lighting and sound. There will be an experienced Venue Technician assigned to each venue and you will have a 3-hour technical

rehearsal time. Depending on the venue, a member of your company (ex. your Stage Manager) may be required to operate sound cues.

The Venue Technician is not a Stage Manager. Hamilton Fringe Festival strongly advises all companies to provide a Stage Manager.

Companies must provide all crew necessary to load in and load out their production.

Performance Set-Up & Strike

Each company is allowed 15 minutes for set up and 10 minutes for strike. The audience is seated 15 minutes prior to show time or less at the discretion of the Venue Technician and Hamilton Fringe Festival staff.

Venue seating is fixed and cannot be adjusted.

Companies must provide all crew necessary to set up before each performance and to strike after each performance within the allotted time.

Tickets and Revenue

Participating companies/artists receive 100% of their net box office receipts. Hamilton Fringe Festival reserves the right to charge service fees in addition to the base ticket price. Hamilton Fringe Festival will provide front-of-house management, ticketing, and box office services.

Artists performing in the Hamilton Fringe Festival are independent contractors. You are entitled to receive 100% of the ticket price set by the Hamilton Fringe Festival and are responsible for remitting any HST or applicable taxes on that revenue.

The ticket price is set at \$14. Companies may opt to offer \$5 tickets for children 12 and under.

We have a variety of multi-show passes for sale. There are a limited number of these passes and they encourage patrons to see more shows. You will receive the following amounts for each use of a multi-show pass for admittance to your show:

- \$13 for each ticket used from a 3-show Fringe Sampler Solo Pass
- \$12 for each ticket used from a 6-show Fringe Binge Pass

- \$11 for each ticket used from a 10-show Fringe Frenzy Pass

You will receive \$5 for each ticket used from a 6-show Artist Pass. These passes will only be made available to Hamilton Fringe Festival participants.

Please note that single ticket prices as well as multishow pass types and prices may be subject to change. Artists will be notified of any such changes via email to the Primary Contact.

Details of the box office ticketing systems, comp ticket booking, and artist payout process will be shared at the Box Office Seminar for Artists and again in writing no less than two weeks prior to the festival.

Box office payout amounts are usually confirmed and payment notifications received by the recipient no later than August 31, 2026.

The Hamilton Fringe Festival requires all patrons to purchase a Fringe Benefits Button (a one-time \$5 cost) in order to see ticketed paid shows.

This policy applies to everyone, even your special guests and comp list attendees. Each artist participating in the festival is given a Fringe Benefits Button free-of-charge.

Accommodations

It is your responsibility to arrange accommodations while participating in the Hamilton Fringe Festival. If requested by the company, best efforts will be made to connect non-local companies with billeted local accommodations. Priority will be given to artists having traveled the farthest distance to attend the festival. Billets may require artists to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Acceptance & Confirmation

Applicants will receive confirmation by email or phone regarding their status within 24 hours of the lottery draw. All cheques/money orders/credit card payments for successful applicants will be processed immediately.

Participation Fee Refund Policy

This section ONLY applies to applicants who opt into “Other Lottery Categories” (see above).

The Primary Contact is the only individual who may withdraw from the Fringe. Any intent to withdraw must be made in writing by mail or email and is effective from the date the Fringe receives the written notice. Via email, please send to Christopher Stanton at christopher@hftco.ca.

Between **JANUARY 15, 2026** and **MARCH 6, 2026** (inclusive), participants who withdraw shall forfeit 50% of their paid Participation Fee.

On **MARCH 7, 2026** or anytime thereafter, participants who withdraw shall forfeit their entire Participation Fee (100%).

What happens if you need to cancel a performance?

As mentioned above, Hamilton Fringe will schedule your company for seven (7) performances. The schedule as set by the festival is non-negotiable, and your company is required to abide by said schedule.

There are certain circumstances, however, in which you may need to cancel a performance. If you must cancel one of your scheduled performances, you must notify Christopher Stanton at christopher@hftco.ca in writing at the earliest possible time.

Hamilton Fringe cannot refund companies for performances cancelled by the company for any reason.

Any and all tickets purchased for the cancelled performance will be refunded.

Hamilton Fringe may charge a cancellation administration fee of \$50.

Please note that once a given performance has been cancelled, it cannot be “uncancelled.” Cancelled performances will not be rescheduled.

Public Health Protocols

Hamilton Fringe Festival prioritizes the health, safety, and accessibility of our artists, audiences, staff, volunteers, and community partners. As such, our plans for the 2026 Hamilton Fringe Festival have taken all public health guidelines and government guidance into consideration. Our current preparations for the festival period reflect the best information we have going into the summer 2026 period, and are based on ongoing consultation with the Canadian Association of

Fringe Festivals (CAFF).

Hamilton Fringe Festival live performances in all categories will adhere to all public health guidelines in place at the time of performance. Adjustments may include extra time between performances to reduce traffic flow and allow for extra cleaning, indoor venues designed to accommodate social distancing, expanded opportunities for outdoor and/or online shows, and more.

The Festival will set health and safety policies for staff, volunteers, patrons and participants at its discretion, which may include but not be exclusive to indoor masking requirements, health screening, physical distancing, etc.

All participating companies must fully adhere to all public health regulations and guidelines in place at the time of performance. If any company or venue is found to be operating in contravention of said regulations or guidelines, Hamilton Fringe Festival reserves the right to immediately cancel all affected performances. The offending company shall forfeit all fees and any outstanding box office proceeds.

Adherence to Pertinent Laws, Codes of Conduct, and Policies

Your company agrees to adhere to the laws of Ontario, and the policies, procedures and safety guidelines as set forth by Hamilton Fringe Festival. The festival reserves the right to remove any company or cancel any/all performances of a company that does not abide by the policies of Hamilton Fringe Festival, including the CAFF Member Code of Conduct and the HFTco Safer Spaces Policy. These policies are available online at [HFTco.ca](https://www.hftco.ca).

Finally

Submission of your online application and application fee means that you have read and have agreed to all of the above.

Please contact us if you have any questions or need clarification of these details BEFORE paying the non-refundable fee and submitting your application. We recommend that you print a copy of this page for your own records.

IF you are choosing to enter this application in other lotteries (see above), your online application must be accompanied by your non-refundable application fee (\$30.00). Applications received without the application fee will NOT be included in the Hamilton Fringe Festival lottery.

Application fee is waived for those only entering the FringeXchange lottery.

Hamilton Fringe Festival reserves the right to remove any company from participation in the Fringe should the company members or an individual member engage in illegal activity (including hate speech), harassment, unethical behaviour, or otherwise place the festival itself at risk.

SIGNATURE

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT, I FULLY UNDERSTAND IT, AND I AM FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY AGREEING TO ADHERE TO IT BY SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION TO THE HAMILTON FRINGE FESTIVAL.

UPON SUCCESSFUL SELECTION IN THE LOTTERY/NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE TO THE FESTIVAL, I AGREE TO PROVIDE MY SIGNATURE WITHIN 48 HOURS OF BEING NOTIFIED. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN MY COMPANY BEING WITHDRAWN FROM HAMILTON FRINGE FESTIVAL.

Applicant's Signature:	Date:
Name (printed):	

For Hamilton Fringe Festival:	Date:
Name (printed):	