

"Hamilton" cast surprises Florida girl with reunion on John Krasinski show

By Gary Dinges, USA Today, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.13.20

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Image 1. The "Hamilton" cast reunites over Zoom on John Krasinski's show "Some Good News" to sing to Aubrey on her 9th birthday. Aubrey (on the far right, one up from the bottom) had been heartbroken when the "Hamilton" show she had tickets for was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Image: SomeGoodNews YouTube

A Florida girl got the surprise of a lifetime for her 9th birthday thanks to John Krasinski, Lin-Manuel Miranda and the cast of "Hamilton."

The girl's mother took to Twitter in late March, telling Miranda her daughter, Aubrey, had tickets to see "Hamilton." Her daughter was heartbroken when the performance in Jacksonville, Florida, was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Seeing 'Hamilton' has been her dream since she saw her 1st Broadway show last year," the mom tweeted.

Instead, Aubrey spent her birthday watching "Mary Poppins Returns."

"At least we're safe & healthy," the mom's tweet said.

The social media post apparently caught the attention of Krasinski. His wife, Emily Blunt, starred in "Mary Poppins Returns" with Miranda.

Krasinski invited Aubrey onto the second episode of "Some Good News," his new online show aimed at highlighting uplifting stories during these tough times.

"Very sadly there was one little girl whose dream could not come true because her long-awaited 'Hamilton' experience was canceled," Krasinski said. "Luckily she toughed it out though, turning to the one person she can always count on, Mary Poppins."

With that, up popped Aubrey. Krasinski and Blunt promised the girl they'd fly her family to New York and get them tickets to see "Hamilton" when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

The 9-year-old's face instantly lit up. The surprises didn't end there. Miranda "Zoom bombed" the interview with some good news of his own.

"I think we can top that right now," he teased. "If you can't go to 'Hamilton,' we're bringing 'Hamilton' to you."

Aubrey then watched in shock. Miranda and more than a dozen cast members, each at his or her own home, sang "Alexander Hamilton" from the hit show.

"Aubrey's still asking if she's dreaming," her mother tweeted a short time later.

Miranda has been spreading joy elsewhere as well. On April 6, he sent a video message to health care professionals at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. New York City has emerged as a coronavirus hotspot. There were more than 81,800 confirmed cases as of midday April 8, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center.

"I know you all have families," he said. "I know you are putting yourselves on the line. You never asked for this. You are heroes and you're doing incredible work. I'm grateful for your service. New York City is grateful for your service."



Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the article shows Aubrey's MAIN problem?
- (A) Her daughter was heartbroken when the performance in Jacksonville, Florida, was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - (B) "Seeing 'Hamilton' has been her dream since she saw her 1st Broadway show last year," the mom tweeted.
 - (C) "Aubrey's still asking if she's dreaming," her mother tweeted a short time later.
 - (D) There were more than 81,800 confirmed cases as of midday April 8, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center.
- 2 Which sentence in the article BEST supports the inference that John Krasinski believes technology can help people during the coronavirus pandemic?
- (A) A Florida girl got the surprise of a lifetime for her 9th birthday thanks to John Krasinski, Lin-Manuel Miranda and the cast of "Hamilton."
 - (B) The girl's mother took to Twitter in late March, telling Miranda her daughter, Aubrey, had tickets to see "Hamilton."
 - (C) Krasinski invited Aubrey onto the second episode of "Some Good News," his new online show aimed at highlighting uplifting stories during these tough times.
 - (D) "Luckily she toughed it out though, turning to the one person she can always count on, Mary Poppins."
- 3 What does the phrase "on the line" suggest as it is used in this selection?

"I know you are putting yourselves on the line. You never asked for this. You are heroes and you're doing incredible work."

- (A) Health care professionals need to help spread joy to others.
- (B) Health care professionals work side by side with one another.
- (C) Health care professionals need to call many patients at home.
- (D) Health care professionals work in a risky environment.

- 4 Read the following sentence from the article.

Krasinski and Blunt promised the girl they'd fly her family to New York and get them tickets to see "Hamilton" when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Which of the following words, if it replaced the word "subsides" in the sentence above, would CHANGE the meaning of the sentence?

- (A) declines
- (B) fades
- (C) lessens
- (D) transforms