

"Hamilton" is going to be a movie featuring the original Broadway cast

By Katie Mettler, Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.11.20

Word Count **570**

Level **MAX**



Image 1. People line up to see the Broadway play "Hamilton" at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York City on November 19, 2016. Photo: Bebetto Matthews/AP Photo

The musical "Hamilton" will be turned into a movie to be released on October 15, 2021.

"Hamilton" chronicles the life of Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, and explores the meaning of democracy in America. The play won a Tony Award in 2016. Tony Awards are given to theater productions to recognize their excellence. They are considered the highest honor within American theater.

The Walt Disney Company purchased the rights to the film. Lin-Manuel Miranda is the creator and star of the play. The film will feature Miranda and the rest of the original Broadway cast. It was filmed four years ago during a live show at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York City. The musical has been performed there since 2015.

"Lin-Manuel Miranda created an unforgettable theater experience and a true cultural phenomenon, and it was for good reason that 'Hamilton' was hailed as an astonishing work of art," Bob Iger said in a statement. Iger is the Disney chief executive and chairman. "All who saw it with

the original cast will never forget that singular experience. And we're thrilled to have the opportunity to share this same Broadway experience with millions of people around the world."

Through groundbreaking hip-hop music and a diverse cast, the Broadway production covers Hamilton's life as a young man. It recounts his role in the American Revolution and his relationship with George Washington, Aaron Burr and Thomas Jefferson. Previously, Hamilton was an overlooked figure in American history. Most poignantly, the play explains the ways Hamilton shaped the creation of the U.S. government as the nation's first treasury secretary.

The musical was inspired by the 2004 biography "Alexander Hamilton" by historian Ron Chernow. The musical won 11 Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 2016.

The filmed version of the musical is directed by Tommy Kail. He was the director of the original show.

"We are thrilled for fans of the show, and new audiences across the world, to experience what it was like onstage — and in the audience — when we shot this," Kail said in a statement.



Miranda said that it was "no secret" that the show had been filmed in June 2016, the week before the founding cast members began to depart the musical. Turning it into a widely accessible movie was about the timing, he said.

"What I'm most excited about is there will be a point at which, you all have that friend who brags, 'I saw it with the original cast,'" Miranda said. "We're stealing that brag from everyone. Because you're all going to see it with the original cast."

In a news release about the announcement, Miranda said that he was excited to bring "Hamilton" to "the largest audience possible." Miranda starred in Disney's film "Mary Poppins Returns." He also wrote music for the animated film "Moana." He said in a statement that he was "so proud" of the film collaboration with Disney.

"I fell in love with musical storytelling growing up with the legendary Howard Ashman-Alan Menken Disney collaborations — 'The Little Mermaid,' 'Beauty and the Beast,' 'Aladdin,'" Miranda said.

Quiz

- 1 Select the sentence from the article that suggests the musical "Hamilton" changed the way people understand Alexander Hamilton's role in American history.
- (A) The musical "Hamilton" will be turned into a movie to be released on October 15, 2021.
 - (B) Previously, Hamilton was an overlooked figure in American history.
 - (C) The musical was inspired by the 2004 biography "Alexander Hamilton" by historian Ron Chernow.
 - (D) The musical won 11 Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 2016.

- 2 Read the inference below.

It was difficult to get tickets to see "Hamilton" with the original Broadway cast.

Which sentence from the article provides the BEST support for the inference above?

- (A) "Hamilton" chronicles the life of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton and explores the meaning of democracy in America.
 - (B) Through groundbreaking hip-hop music and a diverse cast, the Broadway production covers Hamilton's life as a young man.
 - (C) "What I'm most excited about is there will be a point at which, you all have that friend who brags, 'I saw it with the original cast,'" Miranda said.
 - (D) In a news release about the announcement, Miranda said that he was excited to bring "Hamilton" to "the largest audience possible."
- 3 Read the following selection introducing the musical "Hamilton."

"Hamilton" chronicles the life of Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, and explores the meaning of democracy in America. The play won a Tony Award in 2016. Tony Awards are given to theater productions to recognize their excellence. They are considered the highest honor within American theater.

What does the author MOST LIKELY want the reader to think about the musical "Hamilton" based on this selection?

- (A) "Hamilton" is an excellent musical that explores important ideas and events in American history.
 - (B) "Hamilton" the musical is not as good as some books that have explored the life of Alexander Hamilton.
 - (C) "Hamilton" is one of the best musicals ever made, and everyone should see it.
 - (D) "Hamilton" the movie will never be able to live up to the experience of seeing the musical on Broadway.
- 4 Read the following selection.

"I fell in love with musical storytelling growing up with the legendary Howard Ashman-Alan Menken Disney collaborations — 'The Little Mermaid,' 'Beauty and the Beast,' 'Aladdin,'" Miranda said.

Why did the author include this information?

- (A) to give examples of films that helped to inspire "Hamilton" the musical
- (B) to illustrate that Lin-Manuel Miranda has been interested in musicals for a long time
- (C) to show why Disney wanted to release the "Hamilton" movie
- (D) to introduce some of the other writers that worked with Miranda on the musical "Hamilton"