

# Hamilton

## An American Musical

Tuesday, November 7 and Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
Pantages Theatre, Hollywood



### KNOW BEFORE THE SHOW

- ◉ *Hamilton: An American Musical* is based on Ron Chernow's biography of Alexander Hamilton.
- ◉ The Broadway production garnered a record-breaking 16 Tony nominations. It won 11.
- ◉ Lin Manuel-Miranda, who also created *In the Heights* and co-wrote songs for *Moana*, wrote the book, lyrics, and music.
- ◉ L.A.-born Cuban American Alex Lacamoire orchestrated the music, and won a Tony for it.
- ◉ Choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler has won three Tonys for Best Choreography, for *Bandstand*, *In the Heights*, and *Hamilton*.

### ALEXANDER HAMILTON: KEY FACTS

- ◉ Born in the British West Indies in 1755 or '57; educated in the American colonies
- ◉ Delegate to the 1787 Constitutional Convention
- ◉ One of the authors of The Federalist Papers
- ◉ First U.S. Secretary of the Treasury
- ◉ Killed in a duel with Aaron Burr in 1804

### THE FEDERALIST PAPERS

What we know today as The Federalist Papers was originally 85 articles published in newspapers including the *Independent Journal*, the *New York Packet*, and *The Daily Advertiser* in 1787–88. They were written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay under the pseudonym Publius. Their aim was to encourage ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The ideological battle at the time was between federalists, who thought a strong central government would provide coherence and keep the union together, and advocates of states' rights, who feared putting too much power into the hands of a federal government. A treatise on the merits of republican government, The Federalist Papers were very much a product of eighteenth-century American political thought, which viewed people as ultimately self-interested and motivated the system of checks and balances that still guides U.S. government today.

## MUSICAL THEATRE, HISTORY, AND POLITICS

American musical theatre came of age as an escape from the harsh realities of the Depression and then World War II. But *Hamilton* is by no means the first musical to deal with serious matters of history and politics. To name just a few:

- 🕒 1776 (1969), about the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- 🕒 *Assassins* (1990), about the people who assassinated, or attempted to assassinate, U.S. presidents
- 🕒 *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (2008), a rock musical about the founding of the Democratic Party
- 🕒 *Evita* (1978), about Eva Perón, the wife of the authoritarian Argentine president
- 🕒 *Falsettos* (1992), about the early years of the AIDS epidemic

## PANTAGES THEATRE HIGHLIGHTS

**1930** The Hollywood Pantages Theatre opens as a movie palace, with major movie stars gracing its red carpet on opening night

**1949** Howard Hughes buys the building and sets up offices upstairs

**1950–1959** The Academy Awards are held at the Pantages

**1963** The epic film *Cleopatra* premieres at the Pantages; the premiere is a benefit that raises almost \$400,000 for construction of The Music Center downtown

**1977** The movie theatre is converted into a venue for live entertainment

**2000** In preparation to host the L.A. production of *The Lion King*, the Pantages undergoes a major renovation, restoring its original 1930s luxury

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- 🕒 What do you think of the casting of people of color as founding fathers? How does this affect the musical or your perception of U.S. history?
- 🕒 Jesse Green wrote of *Hamilton* in *New York* magazine, “The conflict between independence and interdependence is not just the show’s subject but also its method: It brings the complexity of forming a union from disparate constituencies right to your ears.” How do you think the form of *Hamilton*—i.e., the way it is made—reflects its subject matter?
- 🕒 How do you think the political and ideological battles of the founding fathers affect today’s U.S. government and society?
- 🕒 What contemporary issues does the show speak to? Is *Hamilton* making a political argument? If so, what is it?

## IF YOU ENJOYED THIS EVENT, CHECK OUT:

- 🕒 *The Hamilton Mixtape*  
on iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, or Spotify
- 🕒 *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow
- 🕒 The behind-the-scenes PBS documentary *Hamilton’s America*  
[PBS.ORG/WNET/GPERF/EPISODES/HAMILTONS-AMERICA/](https://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/episodes/hamiltons-america/)
- 🕒 *The Federalist Papers* online  
[CONGRESS.GOV/RESOURCES/DISPLAY/CONTENT/THE+FEDERALIST+PAPERS](https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/the-federalist-papers)

## VOCABULARY CORNER

**BOOK** In musical theatre and opera, the *book* is the text or script, also known as the *libretto*. Lyrics are specifically the text of songs.

**FEDERALIST** a capital-F Federalist was an advocate of a federal union, or central government, for the American colonies, or a member of the American Federalist Party that was active in the early years of the United States. A lowercase *federalist* is anyone who believes in central organization of any group of political units, such as states.

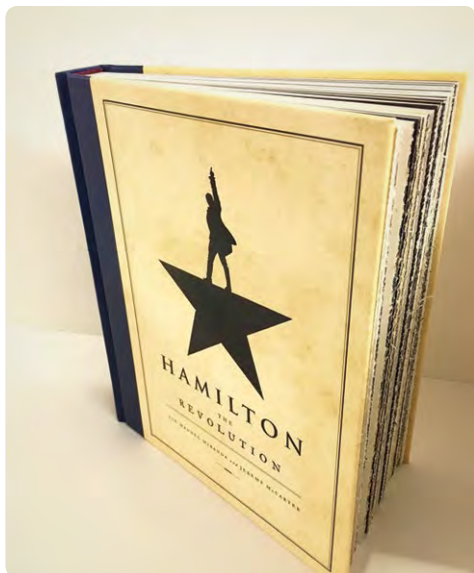
**LOYALIST** A person in the colonies loyal to Great Britain during the American Revolution.

**REPUBLIC** a government that has a chief of state who is not a monarch, usually a president; a representative democracy.

## BETTER ON-LINE TICKET SALES

Bots are killing Broadway, *Hamilton* creator Lin Manuel-Miranda argued in a *New York Times* op-ed in 2016. Tickets for popular shows are purchased within minutes of release by “ticket bots,” automated software used by third-party brokers who buy tickets before regular theatre-goers have a chance, and then resell them at marked-up prices. It’s these third-party sellers, not the people who make the shows, who reap the extra profits. And ordinary people are priced out of art and entertainment.

“I want the thousands of tickets for shows, concerts and sporting events that are now purchased by bots and resold at higher prices to go into the general market so that you have a chance to get them. I want theatergoers to be able to purchase tickets at face value at our box office and our website, rather than on a resale platform. And if you do go to a resale platform for tickets, I want the markup you must pay to be clearly displayed,” Manuel-Miranda wrote. He supported the BOTS (Better On-Line Ticket Sales) Act of 2016, which made it illegal to “circumvent a security measure, access control system, or other technological control or measure on an Internet website or online service that is used by the ticket issuer to enforce posted event ticket purchasing limits or to maintain the integrity of posted online ticket purchasing order rules.”



## DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

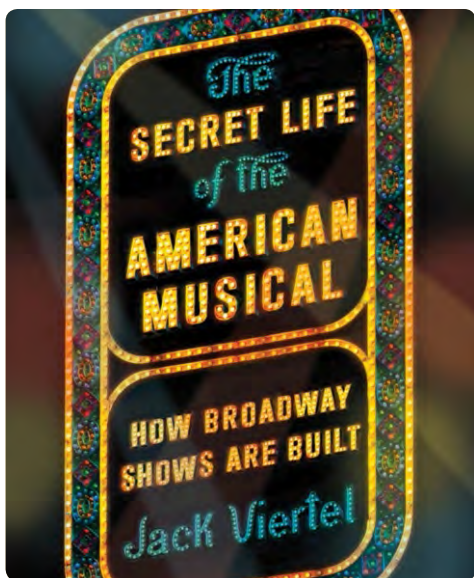
**ANTHONY ANDERSON** of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about *Hamilton* and the history that inspired it.

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- Chernow, Ron. *Alexander Hamilton*. New York: Penguin Press, 2004.  
**DOHENY LIBRARY: E302.6.H2 C48 2004**
- Miranda, Lin-Manuel, and Jeremy McCarter. *Hamilton: The Revolution: Being the Complete Libretto of the Broadway Musical, with a True Account of Its Creation, and Concise Remarks on Hip-hop, the Power of Stories, and the New America*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2016.  
**MUSIC LIBRARY: ML50.M67636 H3 2016**
- Viertel, Jack. *The Secret Life of the American Musical: How Broadway Shows Are Built*. New York: Sarah Chrichton Books, 2016.  
**MUSIC LIBRARY: ML1711 .V37 2016**

### RECOMMENDED AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

- *Alexander Hamilton [American Experience]*. Boston: WGBH Educational Foundation and Twin Cities Public Television, 2007.  
**LEAVEY LIBRARY: CIRDsk-DVD LvyDVD 11471**
- *Hamilton: Original Broadway Cast Recording*.  
**MUSIC LIBRARY: CD-AUDIO 25170MUS**



### SELECTED AFFILIATED USC ELECTRONIC DATABASES

Find scholarly resources about Alexander Hamilton and *Hamilton* through these electronic resources, accessible through the USC Libraries homepage at [libraries.usc.edu](http://libraries.usc.edu).

**American Founding Era Collection:** “This Rotunda collection provides access to the papers of some of the major figures of the early republic: John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, Dolley and James Madison, John Marshall, Eliza Lucas Pinckney and Harriot Pinckney Horry, and George Washington.”

**America: History & Life with Full Text:** “The definitive index to articles and other literature (books, dissertations, book reviews, etc.) covering the history and culture of the U.S. and Canada, from the 15th century to the present. Indexes nearly 1,800 journals from 1860s to present, including all key journals in the discipline, state and local history publications, and selected articles from scholarly journals in the social sciences and humanities.”

**IIPA (International Index to the Performing Arts):** “IPA draws its current content from more than 100 international performing arts periodicals from 9 countries, and also indexes feature performing arts articles and obituaries appearing in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. IIPA covers nearly all aspects of the world of the performing arts, from the most scholarly studies to the latest crazes. Most IIPA records in the current coverage (1998 forward) contain an abstract.”

**JSTOR:** “A growing full text collection of core social science, humanities, and science journals.”

### SELECTED NON-AFFILIATED USC ELECTRONIC DATABASE

Alexander Hamilton Papers ([www.loc.gov/collections/alexander-hamilton-papers](http://www.loc.gov/collections/alexander-hamilton-papers))

“The papers of Alexander Hamilton (ca. 1757-1804), first treasury secretary of the United States, consist of his personal and public correspondence, drafts of his writings (although not his Federalist essays), and correspondence among members of the Hamilton and Schuyler families. The collection, consisting of approximately 12,000 items dating from 1708 to 1917.”



Alexander Hamilton Papers: General Correspondence, 1734-1804; 1734-1772