

HAMILTON Synopsis

Act One. The company opens the show with a summary of Alexander Hamilton's history, from early life in the Caribbean and his hometown-subsidized travel to New York City, to his charisma and the impact of his overlooked achievements.

Hamilton meets Aaron Burr when he is still a teenager. Their initial friendship is one of wary admiration. Burr tries to stifle the shooting star Hamilton, and Hamilton doesn't understand Burr's refusal to take a stand. Closer friendships are made when Hamilton meets abolitionist John Laurens, the Marquis de Lafayette, and tailor's apprentice Hercules Mulligan. These four form a ready bond in their commitment to a cause...they dream of Revolution.

Energy, intellect and swagger are in abundance in New York; students and would-be soldiers vie for the attention of the wealthiest young ladies, the Schuyler sisters most prominently. These Schuyler ladies are more than a match for the cocky young men, and they will show strength beyond belief. Two of the sisters fall in love, and one will marry Alexander Hamilton.

Before that happens, King George III declares his intent to fight for the colonies' love, and General George Washington responds by rallying the troops. He hears of Hamilton's intelligence and bravery, and chooses him to be his right-hand man. Hamilton is anxious to fight, feeling it is his chance to change his life, to advance his station. Washington needs him to write, instead. Hamilton reluctantly agrees, jealous of the men who will go into battle for the general.

Hamilton is fervently loyal to Washington, defending him against all opposition. When Hamilton wants to defend his honor against a disgraced and bitter General Lee, Washington forbids him to do so. His friend John Laurens steps up to duel Lee in Alexander's place.

We learn more of Hamilton's family life as well as his military service. He marries, has children and continues to support General Washington in the revolution. Aaron Burr, too, finds love and has a daughter born soon afterward. He seeks affirmation in his own way ("Wait For It").

In Act Two, Thomas Jefferson returns from France, asking what he has missed. He is met with some derision, as the people who have been fighting a discouraging war resent his prolonged absence and resulting ignorance. In fierce Congressional arguments, Hamilton butts heads with Jefferson and James Madison...and Aaron Burr. At this point in his career, Hamilton's commitment to building a legacy comes first before family, and his decision to remain in New York rather than spend the summer upstate with Eliza and Angelica proves to be a critical one.

As the new nation is being formed, Hamilton's choices impact both the country and his family. He will learn that the price of the legacy he so desires can be steep, indeed. He fights with all he has in him, to see the United States built on a strong and lasting foundation.