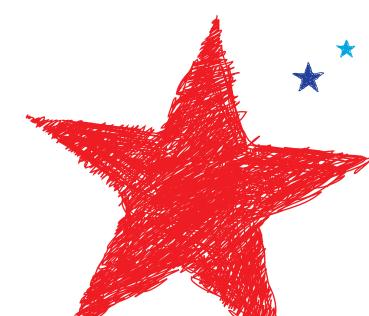


For a founding father, Alexander Hamilton

was a bit of a badass: Dude is born into poverty, becomes fabled revolutionary, dies by duel. Lin-Manuel Miranda, Tony-winning writer and star of Broadway smash In the Heights, thought so too. So he did what anyonewait, make that no one-would think to do: bring the story to the stage via a hip-hop/R&B musical that has Hamilton (Miranda) spitting verses like "We are meant to be a colony that runs independently/Meanwhile, Britain keeps on shitting on us endlessly" and rap battling Thomas Jefferson. Cue the rave reviews and sold-out crowds. Fast-forward six months: The show has moved from NYC's Public Theater to Broadway's big leagues. Here, Hamilton's cast members hit the streets and share their own stories.



(From left) **CHRISTOPHER** JACKSON

 $\star \star \star$

HOMETOWN: Cairo, IL

JASMINE Maria Reynolds * * *

indie Titus opens [on Broadway]." TYPICAL DAY OFF: "I'm in bed for finish Breaking Bad."

RENÉE ELISE GOLDSBERRY $\star \star \star$

HOMETOWN: San Jose, CA YOU MIGHT KNOW HER FROM: The Good Wife IF I WEREN'T AN ACTOR. I'D BE... "I used to think that I'd be a lawyer, but I'm married to a lawyer. The Lord knew what he was doing when he just let me play one on TV." POST-SHOW RITUAL: "We're all still singing and jamming to the songs all the way downstairs to the dressing rooms. No matter how tired we are when we start the show. there's such a high after it's over."

PLAYS: George Washington

YOU MIGHT KNOW HIM FROM: Broadway's Holler If Ya Hear Me DREAM ROLE: "It's always the one I'm playing. It's hard for me to look at shows out there and see myself in them. I'm an R&B singer—I'm not going to get cast in Les Miz. What's great about this show is it's an amalgamation of all these awesome and important genres of music in a voice that I like to perform with." GO-TO KARAOKE SONG: "Probably 'Livin' On a Prayer.' Jon Bon Jovi actually came to the show with his wife, so getting to meet him was pretty dope."

CEPHAS JONES PLAYS: Peggy Schuyler/

HOMETOWN: Brooklyn, NY YOU MIGHT KNOW HER FROM: 2013

FIRST ROLE: "My first professional role was a Noah Baumbach film called Mistress America—it's actually premiering this summer. around the same time Hamilton

half the day. I'm not even gonna lie. I'm sleeping, and if I'm not sleeping, I'm trying to finally

PLAYS: Angelica Schuyler

PHILLIPA SOO

PLAYS: Eliza Hamilton * * *

HOMETOWN: Libertyville, IL YOU MIGHT KNOW HER FROM: NBC's Smash

POST-SHOW RITUAL: "I go home and I'm usually starving, so I have to try not to eat a whole bag of chips...because I really could. But popcorn is my jam. I really season it up and make it fancy."

TYPICAL DAY OFF: "Lately, I've been watching Game of Thrones. I just started it, and I was like, How did I not get on this train? Oh, rightit's because I never have time off."

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA PLAYS: Alexander Hamilton

* * *

HOMETOWN: New York. NY YOU MIGHT KNOW HIM FROM: Broadwav's In the Heights

ON HOW THIS CRAZY IDEA CAME TO HIM "I wasn't a history buff—not even a little-but I was always an English nerd. I picked up Ron Chernow's biography of Hamilton randomly at Borders. I knew he died in a duel. so it'd have a cool ending. And I just fell in love with his story." **CONFESSION:** "Hillary Clinton came to see *In the Heights* in 2009. used to walk around in my underwear backstage between shows, and I come out of my dressing room and there's Hillary with three Secret Service guys because she needed to use the bathroom. She said, 'Show's great!' and I ran inside to put some clothes on."

LESLIE ODOM JR. PLAYS: Aaron Burr

 $\star \star \star$

HOMETOWN: Philadelphia, PA YOU MIGHT KNOW HIM FROM: NBC's Smash

POST-SHOW RITUAL: "Lin and I made up a stupid song that we sing at the top of our lungs as we leave the stage. Then we have a shot of rum in the dressing room, and I'll grab a dollar slice on my way home.' IF I WEREN'T AN ACTOR. I'D BE... "I wish I could say that I would

be feeding the hungry or something. But I've always liked to throw parties, so I'd be a worldrenowned DJ who gets flown all over the place for parties on yachts and in underground clubs.'

AUGUST 2015 _ COSMOPOLITAN _ 155