



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 anyone—wait, 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

PLAYS: George Washington
★ ★ ★

HOMETOWN: Cairo, IL
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.”

JASMINE CEPHAS JONES

PLAYS: Peggy Schuyler/
Maria Reynolds
★ ★ ★

HOMETOWN: Brooklyn, NY
YOU MIGHT KNOW HER FROM: 2013 indie *Titus*
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* opens [on Broadway].”
TYPICAL DAY OFF: “I’m in bed for half the day. I’m not even gonna lie. I’m sleeping, and if I’m not sleeping, I’m trying to finally finish *Breaking Bad*.”

RENÉE ELISE GOLDSBERRY

PLAYS: Angelica Schuyler
★ ★ ★

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.”

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, right—it’s because I never have time off.”

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

PLAYS: Alexander Hamilton
★ ★ ★

HOMETOWN: New York, NY
YOU MIGHT KNOW HIM FROM: Broadway’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. I 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
★ ★ ★

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 world-renowned DJ who gets flown all over the place for parties on yachts and in underground clubs.”

