**Theatre Royal Plymouth**

**Hamilton**

**Audio described performance  Act 1**

**Sat Aug 16th 2025 @ 2.30p.m.**

**Touch Tour 1.30p.m.**

Welcome to the  Theatre Royal Plymouth and to Hamilton,  produced by The Public Theater and Cameron Mackintosh  based on the  book Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow,  and the music and  lyrics  are by Lin-Manuel Miranda.  The show is directed by Thomas Kail. There is an eight strong orchestra led by Zach Flis who plays keyboard.

The show will run for a total of 2 hours and 45 minutes including a 15 minute interval.

My name is Pauline, your audio describer for this Act and my colleague  Gwen,will start her programme notes 5 minutes before the start of Act 2.

**There will be smoke effects, some strobe lighting, strong language,loud music beat boxing and gunfire.**

The story covers the latter half of the 18th century beginning in 1782 to 1804 and these dates are announced by the characters.  Alexander Hamilton is 19 years of age, an orphan from the Caribbean sent to  North America  through charity.  He pushed his way to power through talents and intelligence and used his pen to make his voice heard. He became one of the most powerful men in the nation, and  one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America,  but his remarkable swift rise matched his  equally  swift fall.

His story is told in song  rap and dance.

The set is reminiscent of a castle with wooden walkways, ramparts, platforms and balconies reached by  wooden stairways, one of which on the left,  is raised and lowered as needed. All this is set against brick walls creating a setting which can be changed at will with the movement of whole sections of the wooden walkway  to  allow the characters  to climb and  address the assembly.

The lower half of the brick wall  is dark wood with a wooden arched door on each side below the wooden walkway which runs the length of the back wall leading to balconies on either side. Coiled ropes  and pulleys hang from the walkway at intervals. Small  arched windows are set at intervals in the walls.  Crates and barrels as well as windsor chairs are dotted around the set to be used in the various scenes.  Two ropes are suspended from the ceiling and tied to a capstan on the right of the floor.

The atmosphere is dark and shadowy with shafts of light cutting through the gloom  with the addition of lighting effects where needed. Part of the floor has a  two part two way  revolving  circular walkway which is used in many of the scenes .

Different locations are  determined with the addition of props and furniture swept into place by the cast and just as swiftly whisked away. Such as a street scene is marked by three simple lampposts placed on the outer revolve.

Rather than scenes, the show is defined by the use of the songs, the majority of which are accompanied by the 24  dancers who assume various roles by adding layers to their basic  costumes. The women wear   cream corseted tops over cream jodphurs and heeled shoes and the men are in cream waistcoats and shirts over breeches and knee high boots. The men   and women add  blue  frock coats with red lapels and  cuffs, (American) or red frock coats with red lapels and cuffs,( British),and  tricorn hats  to become  rifle bearing soldiers. The women also  add full floor length busselled  cream skirts  for  the  relevant scenes.

There are 12 main characters, all of multi ethnic origin  with the exception of King George third who is pasty faced.

We meet Aaron Burr  and he is a black  powerfully   built man  in a deep maroon frock coat over a cream waistcoat and matching breeches with buckled shoes. He becomes a sometime narrator of the story. We hear the song **Alexander Hamilton.**

George Washington is a black man, again powerfully built in a military uniform  which is a navy frock coat, cream breeches, black knee boots and a tricorn hat with a black rosette pinned to his gold epauletted coat. A blue sash is visible and he carries a sword.

Hamilton arrives and  he is  short haired ,tall  in an all cream ensemble of frock coat, waistcoat and breeches with buckled shoes. He establishes his place in the American society. He moves to Fraunces tavern, marked with a table, bench and chairs and he meets Lafayette, Mulligan and Laurens. Lafayette’s  black afro hair is worn in   a top knot and he is dressed in  a smart midnight blue frock coat, black breeches and riding boots. Mulligan  is a  thick set black man in a green ankle length  frock coat,  and a grey beanie hat. Laurens is of mixed race with his  jaw length  hair  smoothed back and he wears a dark brown frock coat and matching boots.

They remain in the Tavern to sing **The Story Of Tonight** as a reference to defending their country.

We move to a city Square and  we are introduced to  three sisters, Eliza, Angelica and Peggy  in their satin nipped waist bodiced  gowns. The colours are peach, green and lemon. Their hair is in long tight curls.They meet  Hamilton and Washington. Eliza is the middle sister, dressed in mint green with abundant curly brown hair. Peggy is the youngest,  a shy timid girl in a lemon dress and Angelica, the eldest is the confident one.

A debate takes place with Samuel Seabury standing on a crate. Hamilton queries the topic of war with England which prompts the appearance of George the Third in  a bright spotlight.

He is  dressed in royal  ceremonial regalia  which consists of a red satin  floor length cloak edged in gold and  ermine and  topped with a short  ermine cape over  red  breeches and  waistcoat with white stockings; a diamond encrusted garter is below his left knee and he wears the ceremonial crown over a white wig and carries a gold sceptre. He walks with bended knees and stands in a ballet third position. He has a large diamond brooch on his left lapel.

British soldiers are seen in their red coats and tricorn hats carrying rifles. A rebel is killed and Hamilton joins the fray changing into  a military frockcoat.

[He](http://coat.he/) is joined by Washington, Burr and  Mulligan and  watched by the three sisters.

A ball takes place and  Burr   is now not enamoured of Hamilton and the Sisters are attending  where Hamilton  is introduced to Eliza and a wedding occurs   and we rewind to the night he met the sisters.

Mulligan,Laurens and Lafayette and Hamilton meet Burr who seems dissatisfied with his position  and the scene transitions to Burr and the dancers are  in attendance.

We move to Hamilton’s study and he is sitting at his desk writing with a feather quill.  He is joined by his friends and Washington where they discuss the war and this is followed by a duel where Hamilton and Burr are seconds and Washington does not approve.

 The pregnant Eliza greets Hamilton  as he returns from the war .

The friends discuss the War amongst themselves  with the sisters adding their opinions.

It is the Battle of York Town 1781 and Hamilton and Lafayette meet and discuss what outcomes of the War will mean to them and King George makes another appearance.His sanity is questionable.

Both Burr and Hamilton are now fathers and they question their suitability to rear children but Eliza loses a son in battle and Burr and Hamilton tell us of their return after the war to New York.

Angelica begins a correspondence with Hamilton despite being married and Hamilton  becomes the head of the Treasury which is where  we leave him.

Cast

Alexander Hamilton…………………………………..Marley Fenton

Aaron Burr…………………………………………….Billy Nevers

Eliza Hamilton………………………………………..Casey Al-Shaqsy

Angelica Schuyler……………………………………Chasity Crisp

George Washington…………………………………Akmed Junior khemalai

Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson………………………..Ashley J Daniels

Mulligan/James Madison……………………………KM Drew Boateng

Laurens/Philp Hamilton……………………………..Shak Mancel James

Peggy Schulyer/ Maria Reynolds………………….Naomi Katiyo

King George………………………………………….Louis Maskell

Alternate Hamilton…………………………………..Jonathan Hermosa- Lopez

Philip Schuyler/Reynolds/Doctor…………………..Castell Parker

Samuel Seabury……………………………………..Ethan Vijn

Charles Lee………………………………………….Jago Mottart

George Eaker………………………………………..Simeon Beckett

**Hamilton – programme notes for Act 2**

**(Gwen Furniss – 31st July 2025)**

Welcome back to Act 2 of Hamilton. My name is Gwen and I will be describing Act 2. First a few notes on extra scenery and characters.

The set remains the same, but scene changes are indicated by various props brought on by cast members. Hamilton’s and Washington’s offices are portrayed by a desk and chair. In Hamilton’s home, his wife and son sit together on a padded stool in front of a box piano. The conference room has a round gateleg table covered with a red cloth with gold fringe, and surrounded by wheel-back chairs. Street scenes at night are shown by streetlamps placed at various points on the stage. As in act 1, use is made of the three turntables, concentric circles which move clockwise or counterclockwise to convey movement.

This act introduces us to some new characters. First we have Jefferson, Madison and Philip Hamilton. These are played by the same actors who portrayed Lafayette, Mulligan and Laurens in act 1. Thomas Jefferson returns from France, where he had been the American minister to the court of Versailles, until the start of the French revolution. He struts on to the scene, to great acclaim from the American people, wearing a flamboyant outfit of purple velvet with gold buttons: tailcoat, waistcoat and breeches over a ruffled white shirt, with white stockings and flat black shoes. He has a wispy moustache and a fringed beard. He carries an elaborate walking cane. He poses atop the moveable wooden staircase, which is revolved by cast members.

James Madison is a shorter man, much more soberly dressed than his companion, in long grey tailcoat and breeches

Hamilton’s eldest son, Philip, is 9 years old when we first see him, though played by an adult actor. He is gangly and hyperactive, sitting at the piano next to his mother. The next time we see him, he is 19, a hot-headed law student. He has braided black hair and wears a sky blue waistcoat with white shirt and grey breeches.

George Washington, newly elected as America’s first President, and no longer in military attire, wears a black velvet coat over black waistcoat and breeches and knee high boots. Later in the act, he wears wire-rimmed glasses for reading.

Another new character is Maria Reynolds, a young woman with dark hair, wearing a deep-red dress with low cut bodice. She would become Hamilton’s mistress for a short time. Her husband, James Reynolds, is a thick-set man. He wears a brown hat with a brim, a rust-red coat and black boots.

A minor, but significant character appears in the form of George Eacker, a New York lawyer. He is seen wearing a black tricorne hat and caped black cloak.

Hamilton himself ages gradually, first wearing his green satin outfit as before, then wearing more sombre clothes of grey or black, and using wire-rimmed glasses for reading.

The characters’ costumes change with the passing of the years. This is particularly noticeable with the ladies’ fashions, changing from the stiffly corseted dresses with hoops and panniers of the Georgian era to the high-waisted and softly flowing dresses of the Regency period.