

## ‘Hamilton’ review: You say you want a revolution

The opening scenes of the filmed version of the Broadway musical "Hamilton", which starts streaming on Disney+ on Independence Day weekend, pull you back in time to the New York of 1776. That is when a 19-year-old freshly arrived from the *Caribbean* — the "*bastard*", immigrant, son of a whore" who shares his name with the show — makes his move and takes his shot, joining up with a squad of anti-British revolutionaries and eventually finding his way to George Washington's right hand and the front of the \$10 bill.

Caribbean 加勒比海; 加勒比地区

bastard 私生子; 低劣的

"Hamilton", which premiered at the Public Theater in early 2015 before moving to Broadway and then into every precinct of American popular culture, may be the supreme artistic expression of an Obama-era ideal of progressive, multicultural *patriotism*. The show's argument, woven through songs that brilliantly synthesized hip-hop, show tunes and every flavor of pop, was that American history is an open book.

patriotism 爱国主义

Treasury 国库; 财政部

Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the *Treasury* and an architect of the U.S. banking system, was the chosen embodiment of this belief: an outsider with no money and *scant* connections who propelled himself into the center of the national narrative through sheer brains, talent and drive.

scant 不足的; 缺乏的

The tale of his rise fuses individual striving and collective struggle. Hamilton doesn't measure success just in personal terms. He wants to make his mark by making a difference. Self-making and nation-building are aspects of a single project.

"Hamilton" is a brilliant feat of historical imagination, which isn't the same as a history lesson. Its central questions — "Who lives, who dies, who tells your story?" — are staring us in the face. Its lyrics are an archive of encouragement and rebuke.

rebuke 斥责; 指责