

## Hamilton: Act One

### Characters

Narrator 1 (9 lines)	Eliza 1 (3 lines, solos in sisters song/opening)
Narrator 2 (14 lines)	Eliza 2 (4 lines, solo song)
Narrator 3 (11 lines)	Angelica (3 lines, several solos)
Narrator 4 (9 lines)	Peggy (5 lines, (3 lines, several solos)
Hamilton 1 (12 lines)	Washington (10 lines, big solo in finale)
Hamilton 2 (8 lines)	King George (7 lines, possible song)
Burr 1 (4 lines, plus sisters song)	Royal Guard 1 (5 lines)
Burr 2 (5 lines, plus Wait For It)	Royal Guard 2 (4 lines)
Laurens (4 lines, plus 3 solos)	
Lafayette (5 lines, plus 3 solos)	
Mulligan (6 lines, plus 3 solos)	

### SCENE 1:

#### **ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

[ALL NARRATORS]

How does a rascal orphan, son of a  
women and a Scotsman, dropped in the  
middle of a forgotten  
Spot in the Caribbean by providence,  
impoverished, in squalor  
Grow up to be a hero and a scholar?

[LAURENS]

The ten-dollar Founding Father without  
a father  
Got a lot farther by working a lot harder

[LAFAYETTE]

By being a lot smarter  
By being a self-starter  
By fourteen,

[SOLO]

they placed him in charge of a trading  
charter

[SOLO]

And every day while slaves were being  
slaughtered and carted  
Away across the waves, he struggled  
and kept his guard up

[SOLO]

Inside, he was longing for something to  
be a part of  
The brother was ready to beg, steal,  
borrow, or barter

[MULLIGAN]

Then a hurricane came, and devastation  
reigned  
Our man saw his future drip, dripping  
down the drain

[SOLO]

Put a pencil to his temple, connected it  
to his brain

And he wrote his first refrain, a  
testament to his pain

[BURR]

Well, the word got around, they said,  
“This kid is insane, man”

Took up a collection just to send him to  
the mainland

[BURR 2]

“Get your education, don’t forget from  
whence you came, and  
The world’s gonna know your name.  
What’s your name, man?”

[HAMILTON 1]

Alexander Hamilton  
My name is Alexander Hamilton  
And there’s a million things I haven’t  
done  
But just you wait, just you wait...

[ELIZA 1]

When he was ten his father split, full of  
it, debt-ridden  
Two years later, see Alex and his  
mother bed-ridden  
Half-dead sittin’ in their own sick, the  
scent thick

[FULL COMPANY EXCEPT  
HAMILTON]

And Alex got better but his mother went  
quick

[HAMILTON 2]

Moved in with a cousin, the cousin  
committed suicide  
Left him with nothing’ but ruined pride,  
something new inside

[LAFAYETTE]

A voice saying  
“Alex, you gotta fend for yourself.”  
He started retreatin’ and readin’ every  
treatise on the shelf

[SOLO]

There would have been nothin’ left to do  
For someone less astute  
He woulda been dead or destitute  
Without a cent of restitution

[SOLO]

Started workin’, clerkin’ for his late  
mother’s landlord  
Tradin’ sugar cane and rum and all the  
things he can’t afford

[SOLO]

Scammin’ for every book he can get his  
hands on  
Plannin’ for the future see him now as  
he stands on (ooh)  
The bow of a ship headed for a new  
land  
In New York you can be a new man

[COMPANY]

In New York you can be a new man (x3)  
In New York!

[BOTH HAMILTONS]

Just you wait!

[COMPANY]

Alexander Hamilton

We are waiting in the wings for you

You could never back down

You never learned to take your time!

Oh, Alexander Hamilton

When America sings for you

Will they know what you overcame?

Will they know you rewrote the game?

The world will never be the same, OH

OH OH

The ship is in the harbor now

See if you can spot him

Another immigrant

Comin' up from the bottom

His enemies destroyed his rep

America forgot him

[MULLIGAN & LAFAYETTE]

We fought with him

Me? I died for him

[WASHINGTON]

Me? I trusted him

[ELIZA & ANGELICA & PEGGY]

Me? I loved him

[BURR]

And me? I'm the darn fool that shot him

[COMPANY]

There's a million things I haven't done

But just you wait!

[BURR]

What's your name, man?

[COMPANY]

Alexander Hamilton!

[LAURENS]

**Narrator 1:** Our story takes place at a time before America was truly formed.

**Narrator 2:** When the grass was a little greener, the sky was a little bluer, and life was a little simpler...

**Narrator 1:** Simpler? Have you ever SEEN this show?

**Narrator 3:** It is 1776, the beginning of a new age, in New York City. Right before the revolution.

**Narrator 4:** The folks in america were done with the reign of England.

**Narrator 3:** This is Alexander Hamilton

**Narrator 2:** And this? This is Aaron Burr.

**Narrator 4:** Here they are, meeting for the very first time.

**Hamilton 1:** Excuse me, are you Aaron Burr, sir?

**Burr 1:** Yes, who is asking?

**Hamilton 1:** My name is Alexander Hamilton. I have a question for you. I heard your name at Princeton right before some...complications...

**Burr 1:** Complications?

**Hamilton 1:** I punched the professor. How did you graduate so fast? I am smart, dedicated, and don't like listening to people who say I can't succeed or do anything I want...

**Burr 1:** Alexander, come I give you advice? Talk less. Smile more. Don't let them know what your against or what your for.

**Hamilton 1:** You can't be serious?

**Burr 1:** You want to get ahead (*hamilton nods*). Well fools who run their mouths will wind up dead.

**Hamilton 1:** Sir, I don't believe that is ..

**Laurens:** HEY! Let's get rid of the red coats!

**Lafayette:** No one is better than the french!

**Mulligan:** Let's raise our voices to the revolution!!!

*(They all cheer)*

**Hamilton 1:** Mr. Burr-thank you for your advice, but if you stand for nothing, what will you fall for? I won't stop fighting for what I believe in, because I am not throwing away my shot.

*(Burr 1 exits)*

**Mulligan:** Oh man, I can't believe you just did that!

**Lafayette:** That was amazing. No one stands up to Burr like that. To freedom!

*(They all cheer)*

**Mulligan:** Something they can never take away.

**Laurens:** No matter what they tell you!

**Mulligan:** We should totally revolt the tea coming from England. Do we even drink tea?

**All:** NO!

**Lafayette:** Yes! And we should throw the tea we already have into the sea!

**All:** (*AD LIB, for example:* That's a little far. We already paid for it. But I have tons!)

## **SCENE 2:**

**Narrator 1:** Now, we can't tell a good story, without a little love in it.

**Narrator 4:** So, Let's move to another part of town.

**Narrator 3:** Where 3 amazing women-

**Narrator 2:** SISTERS!!!

**Narrator 3:** Yes, sisters, were taking New York by Storm!

### **Schuyler Sisters**

[SOLO]

There's nothing rich folks love more  
Than going downtown and slumming it  
with the poor

[SOLO]

They pull up in their carriages and gawk  
at the students in the common  
Just to watch 'em talk

[SOLO]

Take Philip Schuyler, the man is loaded  
Uh oh, but little does he know that  
His daughters, Peggy, Angelica, Eliza  
Sneak into the city just to watch all the  
guys at

COMPANY: Work, work

ANGELICA: Angelica!

COMPANY: Work, work

ELIZA 1: Eliza!

COMPANY: Work, work

PEGGY: And Peggy!

COMPANY: The Schuyler sisters

ANGELICA: Angelica!

PEGGY: Peggy!

ELIZA 1: Eliza!

COMPANY: Work!

PEGGY: Daddy said to be home by  
sundown

ANGELICA: Daddy doesn't need to  
know

PEGGY: Daddy said not to go  
downtown

ELIZA 1: Like I said, you're free to go

ANGELICA: But—look around, look  
around, The revolution's happening in  
New York

ELIZA 1 & PEGGY: New York

COMPANY: Angelica

SISTERS & COMPANY: Work!

PEGGY: It's bad enough Daddy wants  
to go to war

ELIZA 1: People shouting in the square

PEGGY: It's bad enough there'll be  
violence on our shore

ANGELICA: New ideas in the air  
Look around, look around—

ELIZA 1: Angelica, remind me what  
we're looking for

ALL: She's looking for me!

ANGELICA:  
I'm looking for a mind at work (X3)  
Woa-oah  
SISTERS: Woa-oah

SISTERS & COMPANY: Work!

[SOLO]  
Ooh, there's nothing like summer in the  
city  
Someone in a rush next to someone  
lookin' pretty

[BURR 1]  
Excuse me, miss, I know it's not funny  
But your perfume smells like your  
daddy's got money  
Why you slummin' in the city in your  
fancy heels?  
You searchin' for an urchin who can  
give you ideals?

ANGELICA: Burr, you disgust me

BURR 1:  
Ahh, so you've discussed me

I'm a trust fund, baby, you can trust me

ANGELICA:  
I've been reading Common Sense by  
Thomas Paine  
So men say that I'm intense or I'm  
insane  
You want a revolution? I want a  
revelation  
So listen to my declaration:

ALL SISTERS:  
"We hold these truths to be self-evident  
That all men are created equal"

ANGELICA:  
And when I meet Thomas Jefferson  
I'mma compel him to include women in  
the sequel

[COMPANY]  
Work!  
Look around, look around at how  
Lucky we are to be alive right now  
Look around, look around at how  
Lucky we are to be alive right now

History is happening in Manhattan and  
we  
Just happen to be in the greatest city in  
the world!  
In the greatest city in the world!

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**Peggy:** Sisters! You know what is happening tonight?  
**Angelica/Eliza:** What?

**Peggy:** It's the winter ball!

**Angelica:** Oh, that. Who cares, nothing will happen.

**Peggy:** What are you talking about, we are going to go and find the perfect husbands tonight! And...

**Eliza 1:** What Peggy?

**Peggy:** I have daddy's wallet.

**Eliza 1:** Well, I do need a new dress.

**Angelica:** We don't need men to run our lives. *(Eliza and Peggy give puppy eyes)* Fine lets go.

**Eliza 1:** After all, we need to protect our little sister!

**Peggy:** YES!!!

### **SCENE 3:**

**Narrator 4:** Before we move on with our love story....I mean story, let's take a moment to see what is happening in England.

**Narrator 3:** Remember how the people of America were refusing the tea?

**Narrator 2:** Well the King got word.

**Narrator 1:** Lets see how he is doing....

**Royal Guard 1:** Your Royal Heighness..news from America!

**King :** OMG! I'm trying to count all my money, can't I get a little privacy?

**Royal Guard 2:** Sire, you are the king.

**King :** I know who I am. What do you want?

**Royal Guard 1:** Your Highness, we have news from America.

**King:** Yes, yes, I HEARD you.

**Royal Guard 2:** They hate you because you are taxing their tea too much.

**Royal Guard 1:** Dude, don't say it like that in front of the King!

**Royal Guard 2:** What, it's true!

**Royal Guard 1:** I'm so sorry your highness

*(The Royal Guards argue)*

**King:** Excuse me, Excuse me...EXCUSE ME!!!

*(They stop)*

**King:** I am not worried. They can't survive without me-they'll be back! And if they don't come back ON THEIR KNEES, I will send a fully armed battalion to reclaim my land.

*(Evil Laugh)* It will be glorious.

*(Possible to add "You'll Be Back")*

**King:** Did you get all of that?

**Royal Guard 1:** I think so.

**Royal Guard 2:** Aye-ey Captain!

**King:** Good. Now get out of my sight!

#### **SCENE 4:**

**Narrator 1:** He is creepy.

**Narrator 3:** Let's go back to New York City and see how the Winter's Ball is going.

**Narrator 2:** Oh this is my favorite part. I am excited!

**Narrator 4:** Wait! I just got word, we need to move over to General George Washington's tent.

**Narrator 3:** Looks like King George sent his troops in fast. Over 32 thousand red coats in new york!

**Narrator 1:** I guess the ball is going to be put on hold.

**Narrator 2:** Aw, man!

**Hamilton 1:** *(To his friends)* Here comes the General! Everyone, stay calm. This is our shot and we need to RISE UP!

**Washington:** Attention! We are outgunned, outmanned, outnumbered, and outplanned! BUT. We are going to make an all out stand. Lets Go!

**Lafayette:** We stole the english canons, it was difficult, and we faced more problems.

**Laurens:** Another ship approaches.

**Washington:** I can't do this by myself. I need to find someone to help me.

**Mulligan:** I will get the word out sir.

**Washington:** What am I doing, am I the one to lead these men to victory or death...

**Burr 2:** You excellance, My name is Aaron Burr. I heard you were in need of assistance. I was a captain to General Montgomery and I am noticing there are things we need to do win this war.

**Washington:** Thank you for your advice, but I am not in search of it, I need someone who is going...

**Hamilton 1:** Sire, I heard you needed me.

**Washington:** Yes, Hamilton. Please excuse us, Burr. and don't forget to close the door on your way out.

**Burr 2:** But Sir-

**Washington:** Out, Burr.

**Hamilton 1:** Am I in trouble sir?



**Washington:** Far from it. Things are not looking good, and I need your help. I know it was you who came up and stole the cannons. Many others want you as their right hand man. So do I.

**Hamilton 1:** I am not someone's secretary.

**Washington:** You are smart, dedicated, brilliant. I understand fighting means a lot to you, but dying is easy, man, living is harder.

**Hamilton 1:** Why are you telling me this?

**Washington:** I am working with half of what Congress has given me and I need help. I need *your* help Hamilton.

**Hamilton 1:** *(to himself)* I am not throwing away my shot. *(To Washington)* I have some friends who can help. I will write to congress and get more supplies. We need a spy on the inside. I am here to help sir.

**Washington:** Thank you Alexander. Welcome Aboard. It is time to Rise UP.

**Narrator 2:** Yes! Go Alexander! Look at him not throwing away that opportunity!

**[LINE]** Poor Burr!

**[LINE]** Yeah, it hurts not to be the one the president wants in the room.

**[LINE]** Wait here they come!

### **SCENE 5:**

**Burr 2:** Alexander-I have been waiting to talk to Washington for months. Who do you think you are?

**Hamilton 2:** What can I say? You snooze you lose.

**Burr 2:** I wasn't snoozing! I have been waiting my turn, paying my dues.

**Hamilton 2:** Burr, you have to stop playing this game in your head. It's simple: go get what you want.

**Burr 2:** Maybe that's your philosophy, but it's not mine. And it's not right.

**Hamilton 2:** Tell that to Washington. IF you ever get in that room with him again.

### ***WAIT FOR IT***

**[BURR 2]**

My grandfather was a fire and brimstone preacher

But there are things that the homilies and hymns don't teach ya

My mother was a genius

My father demanded respect

When they died, they left no instructions

Just a legacy to protect

Death doesn't discriminate between the sinners and the saints  
 It takes and it takes and it takes  
 And we keep living anyway  
 We rise and we fall and we break and we make our mistakes and  
 If there's a reason I'm still alive and so many have died...  
 I'm willing to wait for it.

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**Narrator 2:** Aaaaaaaaanyway.....

**Narrator 3:** When Hamilton joins Washington's team, the war starts to turn course.

**Narrator 4:** Things are looking up.

**Narrator 1:** Maybe for the war but not for Hamilton! He got married to one of the sisters!

**Narrator 2:** ELIZA! IT'S ELIZA!

**Narrator 4:** Why is that a bad thing?

**Eliza 2:** Eliza is getting tired of spending all of her time alone while her husband is away at war.

**Narrator 2:** AND there's something else....

**Narrator 1:** I'm not sure everyone is supposed to know about that...

**Narrator 3:** Well they're about to find out.

**Narrator 2:** They're gonna have a BABY!

**Narrator 4:** Shh! Here they come!

**Hamilton 2:** Eliza-

**Eliza 2:** Look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now.

**Hamilton 2:** How long have you known?

**Eliza 2:** A month or so. I wrote to Washington and begged him to send you home.

**Hamilton 2:** You should have told me!

**Eliza 2:** Alexander, please don't go back. You deserve a chance to stay here and meet your son!

**Hamilton 2:** Eliza, do you really want to be a poor man's wife?

### ***THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH***

**[Eliza 2]**

Look at where you are

Look at where you started  
 The fact that you're alive is a miracle, Just stay alive  
 That would be enough  
 And if this child shares a fraction of your smile  
 Or a fragment of your mind  
 That would be enough  
 I don't pretend to know the challenges you're facing

The worlds you keep erasing and creating in your mind

But I'm not afraid, I know who I married, so long as you come home at the end of the day...

That would be enough

**Narrator 3:** Things were looking up so well for Hamilton and the New World. However, the king was not done.

**Narrator 2:** One more major battle was needed to win the war.

**ALL:** The Battle of Yorktown! 1781.

[LINE] Hamilton worked with all of his friends: Lafayette, Laurens, Mulligan to help lead the new nation to victory.

[LINE] At first, Alexander was sure he would die. But the thought of Eliza at home, expecting their first child and expecting him to come home kept him safe.

[LINE] They moved as one, under cover of darkness.

**Laurens:** Some of us were redefining bravery in the south!

**Hamilton 2:** And the rest were fighting red coats near the Chesapeake Bay.

[LINE] Their code word was Rochambeau.

[LINE] When they finally drive the British away...

**Lafayette:** I am waiting in the harbour!

[LINE] How did they know this plan would work?

**Mulligan:** They had a spy on the inside!

**Narrator 1:** WE WON!!! You thought that was a lot? That's only act 1!

**Narrator 2:** Things started to change for America. These men and women wanted to create a more perfect union.

**Narrator 3:** How did they do it? Well, it took a lot of hard work.

**Narrator 4:** General George Washington was elected to be the first President of the United States.

**Narrator 2:** And of course he decided to have a few friends join his cabinet.

## HISTORY HAS ITS EYES ON YOU

[WASHINGTON]

I was younger than you are now  
When I was given my first command  
I led my men into a massacre  
Witnessed their deaths firsthand  
Oh, I made every mistake  
I felt the shame rise in me  
And even now I lie awake  
Knowing history has its eyes on me

[COMPANY]

History has its eyes on you

[SOLO]

Let me tell you what I wish I'd known  
When I was young and dreamed of glory

[COMPANY]

You have no control who lives, who dies, who tells your story

[SOLO]

I know that we can win

[SOLO]

I know that greatness lies in view

[SOLO]

But remember from here on in

[COMPANY]

That history has its eyes on you  
(Woah-oh oh, woah-oh-oh)  
History has its eyes on you