

Film Title and Release Date: *Hamilton: One Shot to Broadway* (2017)

Length of Film in Minutes: 74 minutes

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Robert B., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: April 5, 2021

The film *Hamilton: One Shot to Broadway* is a documentary about the history, creation and making of the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, as well as the musical history of its creator, Lin Manuel Miranda. The film starts off with providing details about Lin Manuel Miranda and how he started becoming involved with Broadway musicals. He was involved with many musical projects while he was young, and he began his Broadway career with the musical *In the Heights*. It was a musical that took place where Lin Manuel grew up, being near Washington Heights. It took a creative move with the type of music that it included by having a mix of rap and hip hop. This musical style would later be the basis for his next project, *Hamilton*. Lin Manuel Miranda was inspired to write a musical based on the life of Alexander Hamilton after reading a biography about him. In a past interview with Lin Manuel Miranda, he noted that after he finished reading the biography, he felt that because Alexander Hamilton used so many words in his writing, the only form of music that he could adapt it into was hip hop because it could fit the most words in each line of music.

It took Lin Manuel Miranda 7 years to fully complete *Hamilton*, and was a huge success. The documentary is presented in a mix of interviews with historians and theatre critics, and video footage of a recording of the musical. The historians gave a historical and political background to the events of the musical. It also had small parts of previous interviews with the cast and crew of the show, however there was very little music from the show featured in the film.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I saw this film while browsing documentaries on Kanopy, and thought I would like it because I enjoyed the Broadway musical.

Did the presentation of information keep you interested?

The presentation of information did not really keep my interest because I was expecting more content from the original musical to be featured in this film.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of this film was good, but despite this, it felt a little boring at times.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

I think that the grade level that is appropriate for this film is grade 6 and above.

3 stars: *It was okay. I had hoped for better.*

When I chose to review this film, I was expecting more recent interviews with the cast and crew. I was also hoping that there would be more music from the musical. I thought that the background information was interesting, such as finding out about the history of Lin Manuel Miranda and his idea behind *Hamilton*.