

Edited by Chloe Northrop

The Hamilton Phenomenon

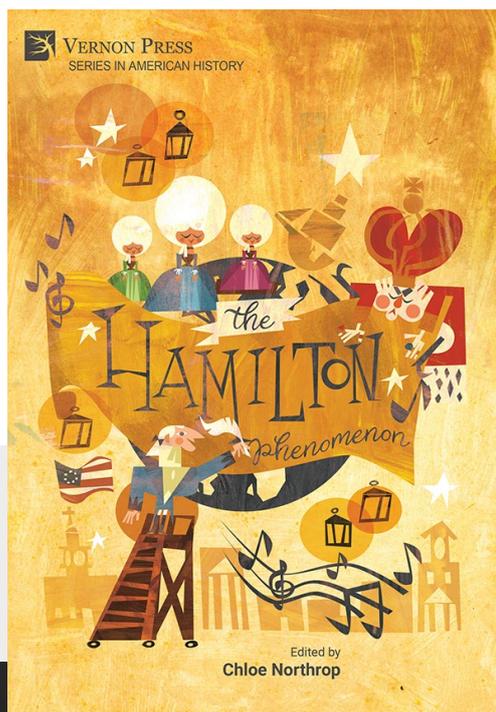
SERIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Summary

'The Hamilton Phenomenon' brings together a diverse group of scholars including university professors and librarians, educators at community colleges, Ph.D. candidates and independent scholars, in an exploration of the celebrated Broadway hit. When Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical sensation erupted onto Broadway in 2015, scholars were underprepared for the impact the theatrical experience would have. Miranda's use of rap, hip-hop, jazz, and Broadway show tunes provides the basis for this whirlwind showcase of America's past through a reinterpretation of eighteenth-century history.

Bound together by their shared interest in 'Hamilton: an American Musical', the authors in this volume diverge from a common touchstone to uncover the unique moment presented by this phenomenon. The two parts of this book feature different emerging themes, ranging from the meaning of the musical on stage, to how the musical is impacting pedagogy and teaching in the 21st century. The first part places Hamilton in the history of theatrical performances of the American Revolution, compares it with other musicals, and fleshes out the significance of postcolonial studies within theatrical performances. Esteemed scholars and educators provide the basis for the second part with insights on the efficacy, benefits, and pitfalls of teaching using Hamilton. Although other scholarly works have debated the historical accuracy of Hamilton, 'The Hamilton Phenomenon' benefits from more distance from the release of the musical, as well as the dissemination of the hit through

traveling productions and the summer 2020 release on Disney+. Through critically engaging with Hamilton these authors unfold new insights on early American history, pedagogy, costume, race in theatrical performances, and the role of theatre in crafting interest in history.



About the editor

Chloe Northrop is a Professor of History at Tarrant County College. She received her Ph.D. in History with a Minor in Art History from the University of North Texas. Her dissertation, 'Fashioning Creole Society in Eighteenth-Century British Jamaica', was on the sentimental exchanges of material goods in the British Atlantic World. She has organized community programming including Holocaust speaker events, an exhibit commemorating the centennial of World War I, and hosted traveling exhibits from NEH On the Road, the Gilder Lehrman Institute, and Humanities Texas. Dr. Northrop has presented on teaching and engaging with 'Hamilton: An American Musical' at the Society of Early Americanists, and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. She has received programming grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Humanities Texas. Her recent article, 'Satirical Prints and Imperial Masculinity: Johnny Newcome in the West Indies', appeared in the Fall 2018 edition of 'Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies'.

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