

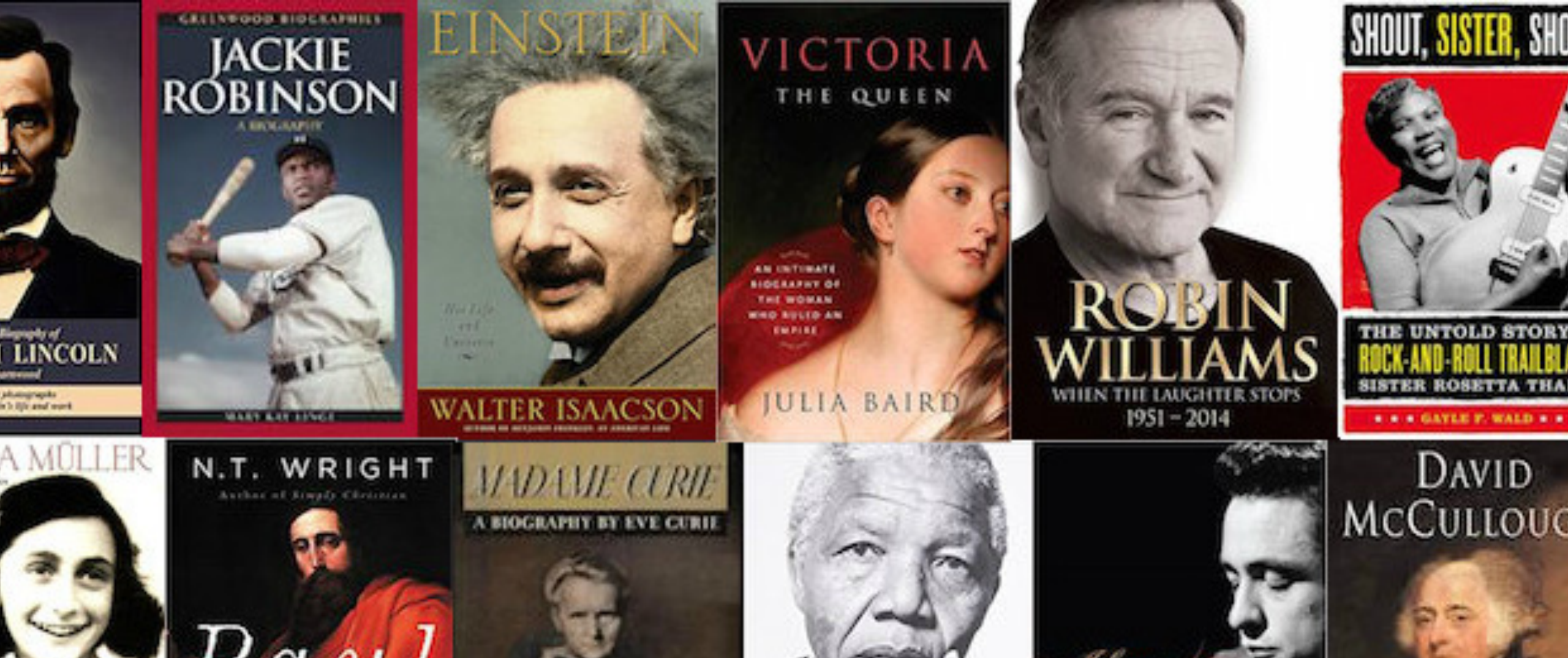


A WHOLE NEW ADVENTURE IS HERE!

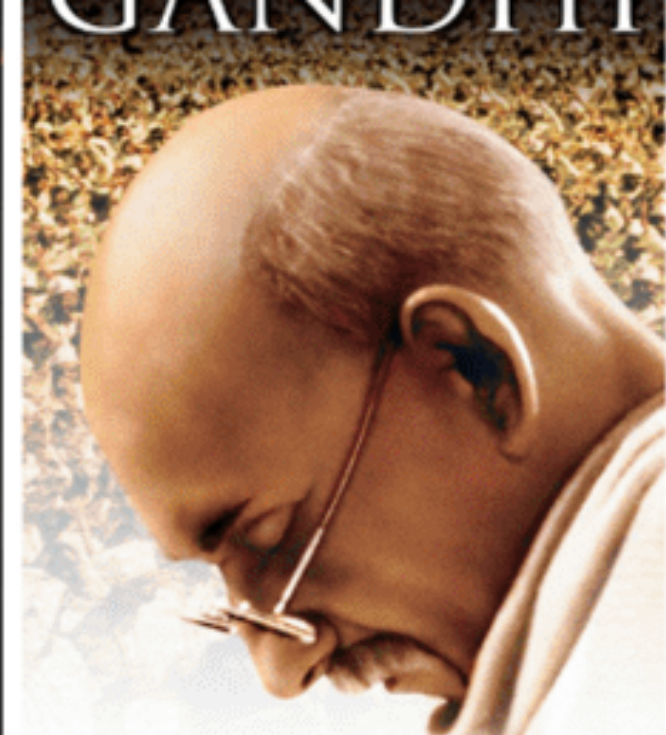
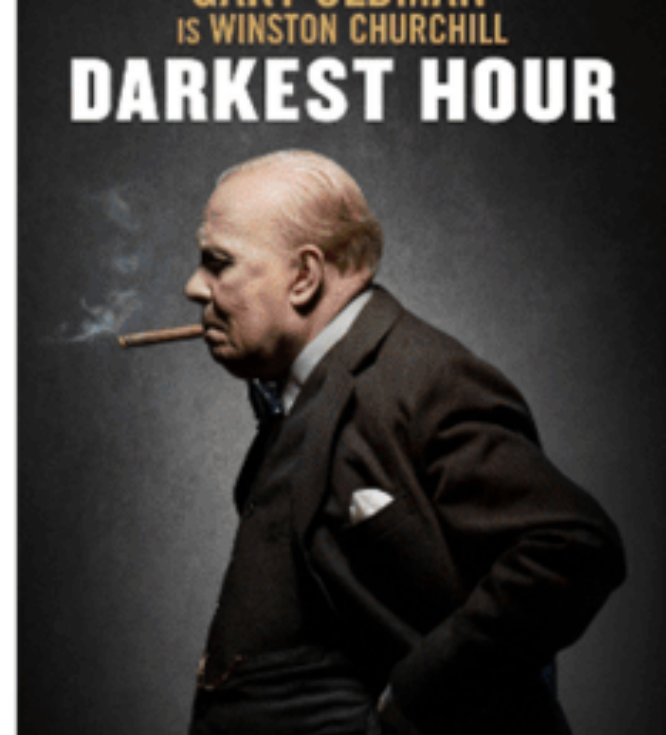
Biographical Soundtrack

Part 1: Making Famous Lives Pop





We are embarking on a whole new journey today and it centers around BIOGRAPHIES! That's right. Books that tell the story of a person's life are biographies. They can be told in many different ways depending upon the author.



Biographies can be adapted into other mediums, too. Many TV shows and movies are created based on biographical books. We call biographical movies biopics.

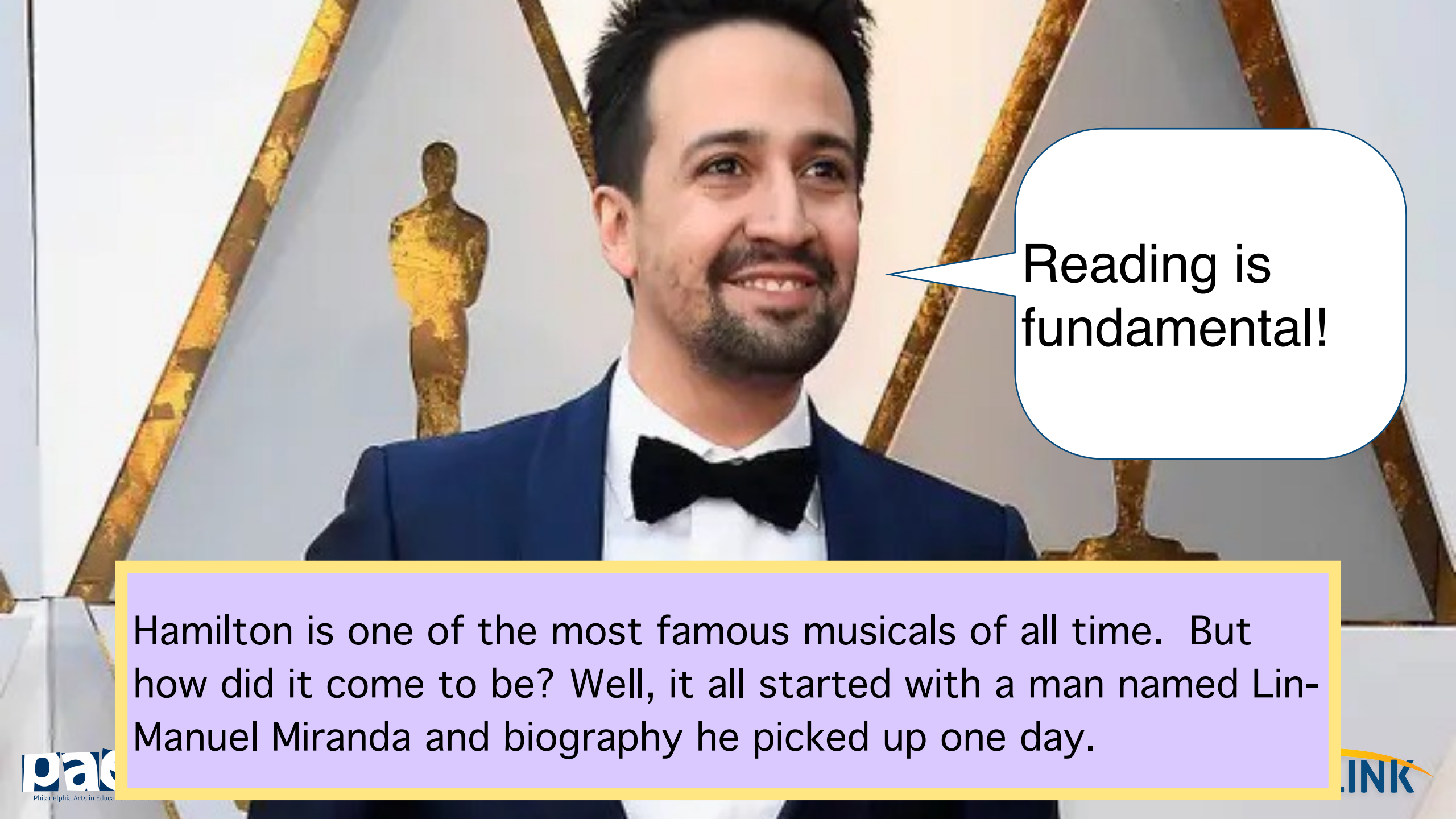


In recent times there has been a biography that was adapted into a musical and it set the world of theater on fire! Can you guess what it is? No, it's not the SpongeBob musical. It's the one the only



HAMILTON





Reading is fundamental!

Hamilton is one of the most famous musicals of all time. But how did it come to be? Well, it all started with a man named Lin-Manuel Miranda and biography he picked up one day.



My son is going places!

Lin-Manuel Miranda was born in New York City in 1980. Growing up his parents loved listening to Latin music and also musicals. But he also learned about the new genre of music called rap from his school bus driver and his sister.

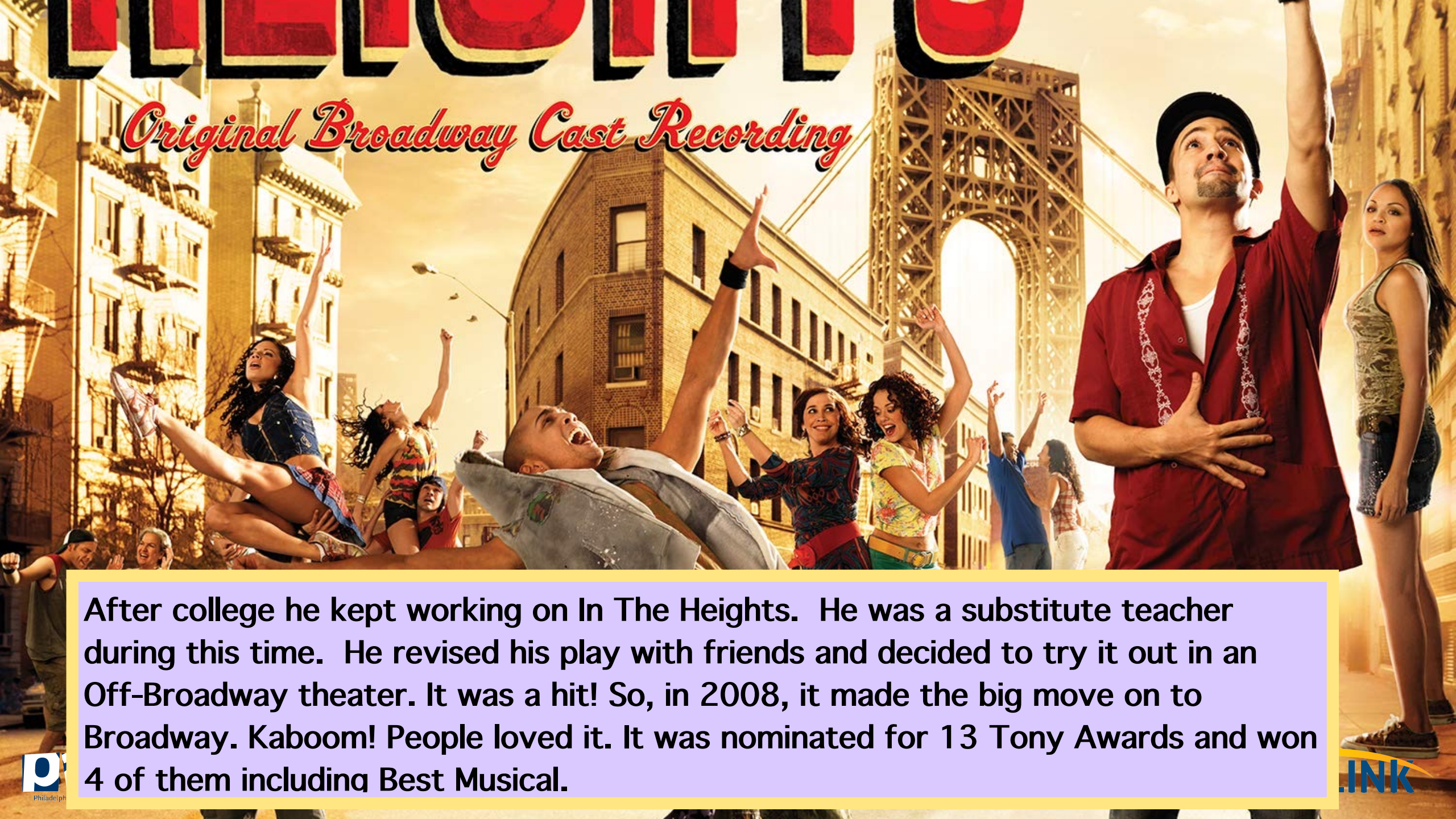
A young boy in a dark suit and white shirt is performing on stage. He is holding a microphone and looking towards the audience. The background is filled with people, some of whom are clapping. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image, pointing to the boy.

Even at 11 years old I'm
in the spotlight!

He started performing in middle school and writing musicals while in high school. When he went to college he began working on a show about a Latino neighborhood in New York called In The Heights. He decided to add Salsa numbers and freestyle rap to the show. It premiered at the school in 1999.

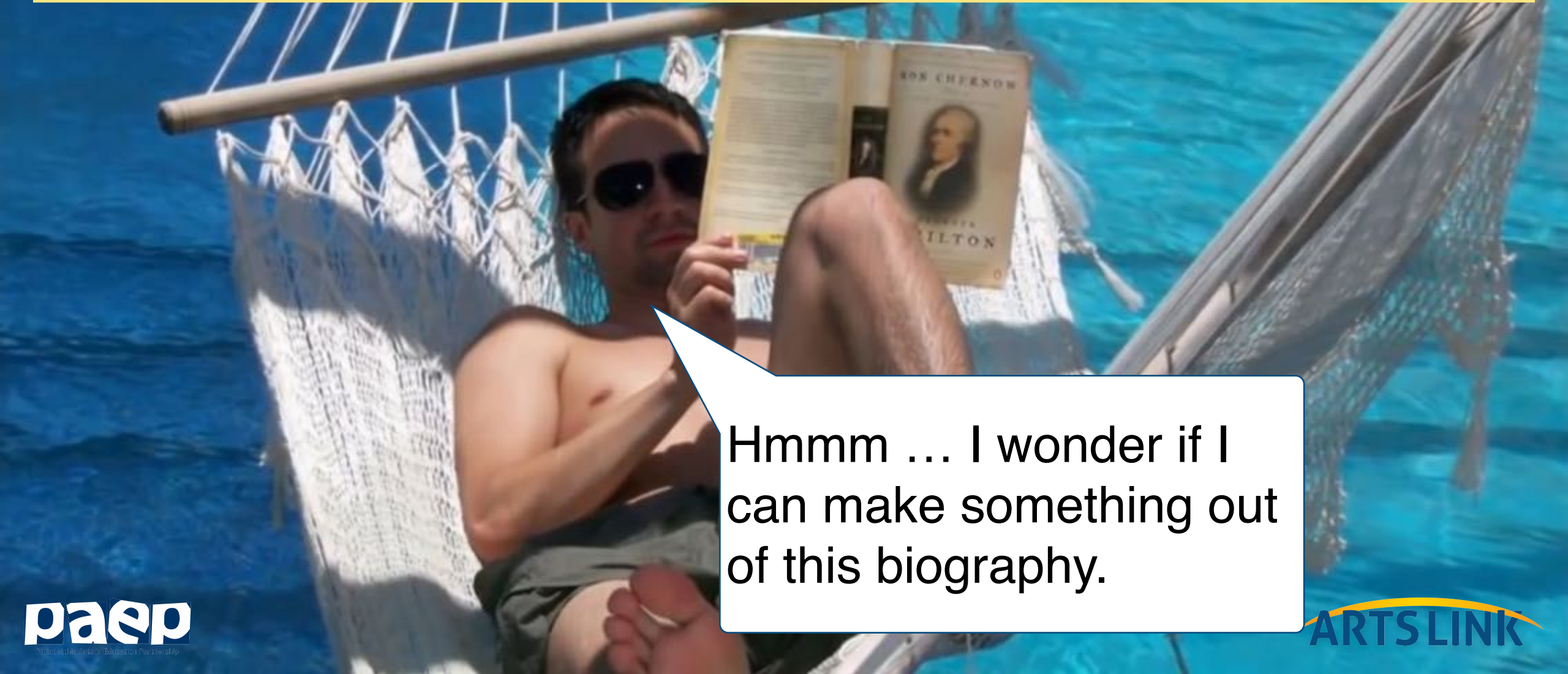
IN THE HEIGHTS

Original Broadway Cast Recording



After college he kept working on In The Heights. He was a substitute teacher during this time. He revised his play with friends and decided to try it out in an Off-Broadway theater. It was a hit! So, in 2008, it made the big move on to Broadway. Kaboom! People loved it. It was nominated for 13 Tony Awards and won 4 of them including Best Musical.

While on vacation in 2008, he read a biography about Alexander Hamilton. It was simply called Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow. He was inspired to write some hip hop numbers about the founding father and started performing them as The Hamilton Mixtape.




Hmmm ... I wonder if I can make something out of this biography.



With more revisions he created Hamilton: An American Musical. He starred as the title character. It premiered Off-Broadway at The Public Theater in January of 2015. It completely sold out. By July it was on Broadway and receiving rave reviews. People were blown away by using rap in a musical about American history and seeing minorities in the roles of The Founding Fathers.



Hamilton went on to break box office records. It also won Tony awards for Best Musical and several others. Lin-Manuel was nominated for best actor. He went on to also win the Pulitzer Prize in Drama and the cast won a Grammy for Best Musical Album.



I got to meet the president and go on Sesame Street, too!

In 2019 he brought Hamilton to Puerto Rico for a special 3 week run. It sold out in three hours. He continues to work on projects writing, acting, and directing. He even wrote music for Star Wars, Moana, and Encanto. We will be seeing his work for years to come.

A scene from the Harry Potter movies set in a grand library. In the foreground, Hermione Granger stands on the left, looking towards the center. In the middle ground, Draco Malfoy sits at a desk with his head buried in his hand, looking stressed. On the right, Harry Potter sits at a desk, wearing glasses and reading a book. The background is filled with bookshelves and large, arched windows. A light blue sticky note with the word 'Vocab!' is stuck to the top of the image.

Vocab!

CAST RECORDING

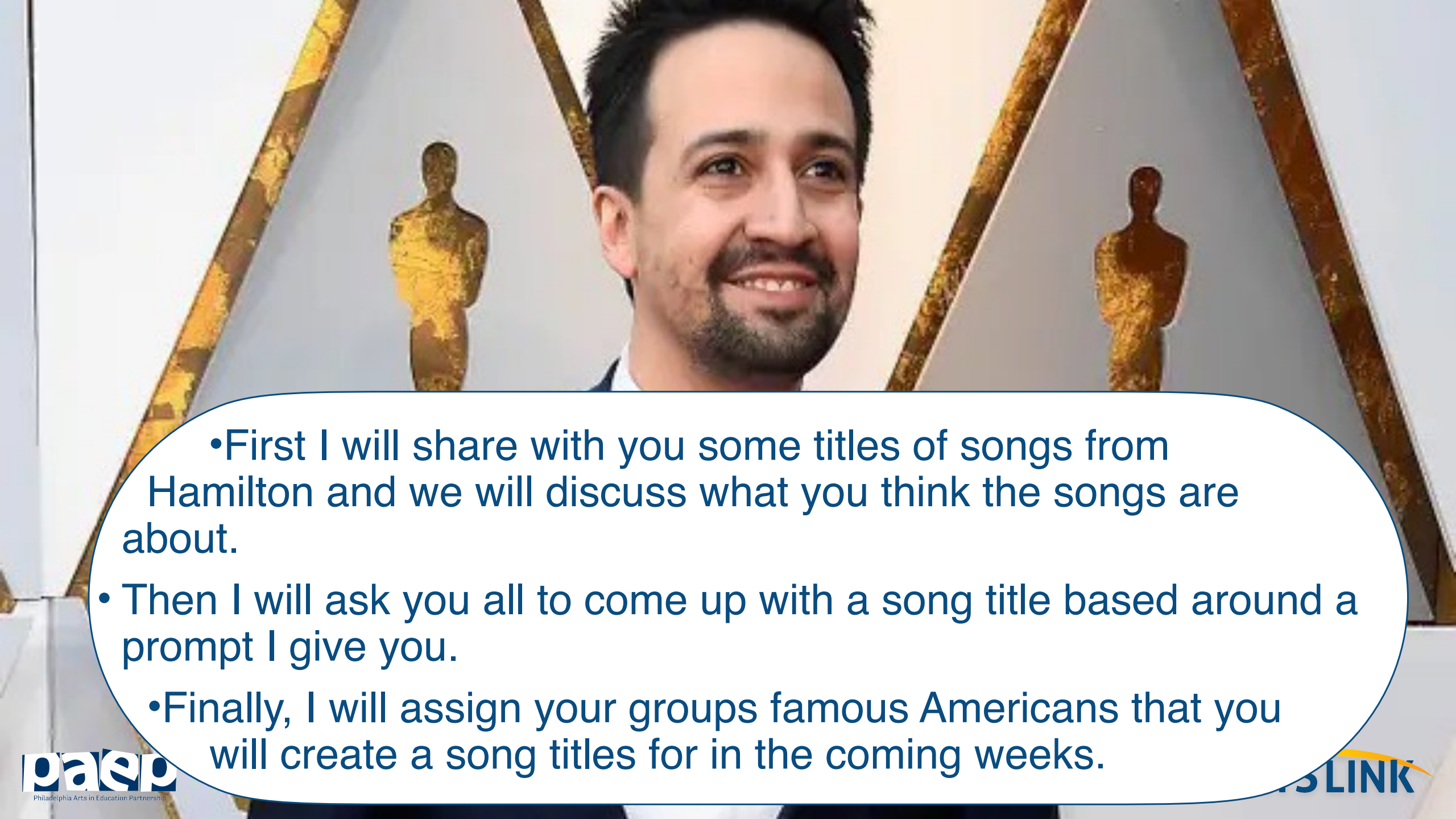
A man and a woman are shown in profile, facing each other in a recording studio. They are both wearing large black headphones and singing into a professional microphone with a pop filter. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. The background is a warm, wood-paneled wall.

A cast recording is the official album put out by the cast of a musical. You will sometimes see the phrase "original cast recording" used meaning that it has all the original actors.





Instructions



- First I will share with you some titles of songs from Hamilton and we will discuss what you think the songs are about.
- Then I will ask you all to come up with a song title based around a prompt I give you.
- Finally, I will assign your groups famous Americans that you will create a song titles for in the coming weeks.