

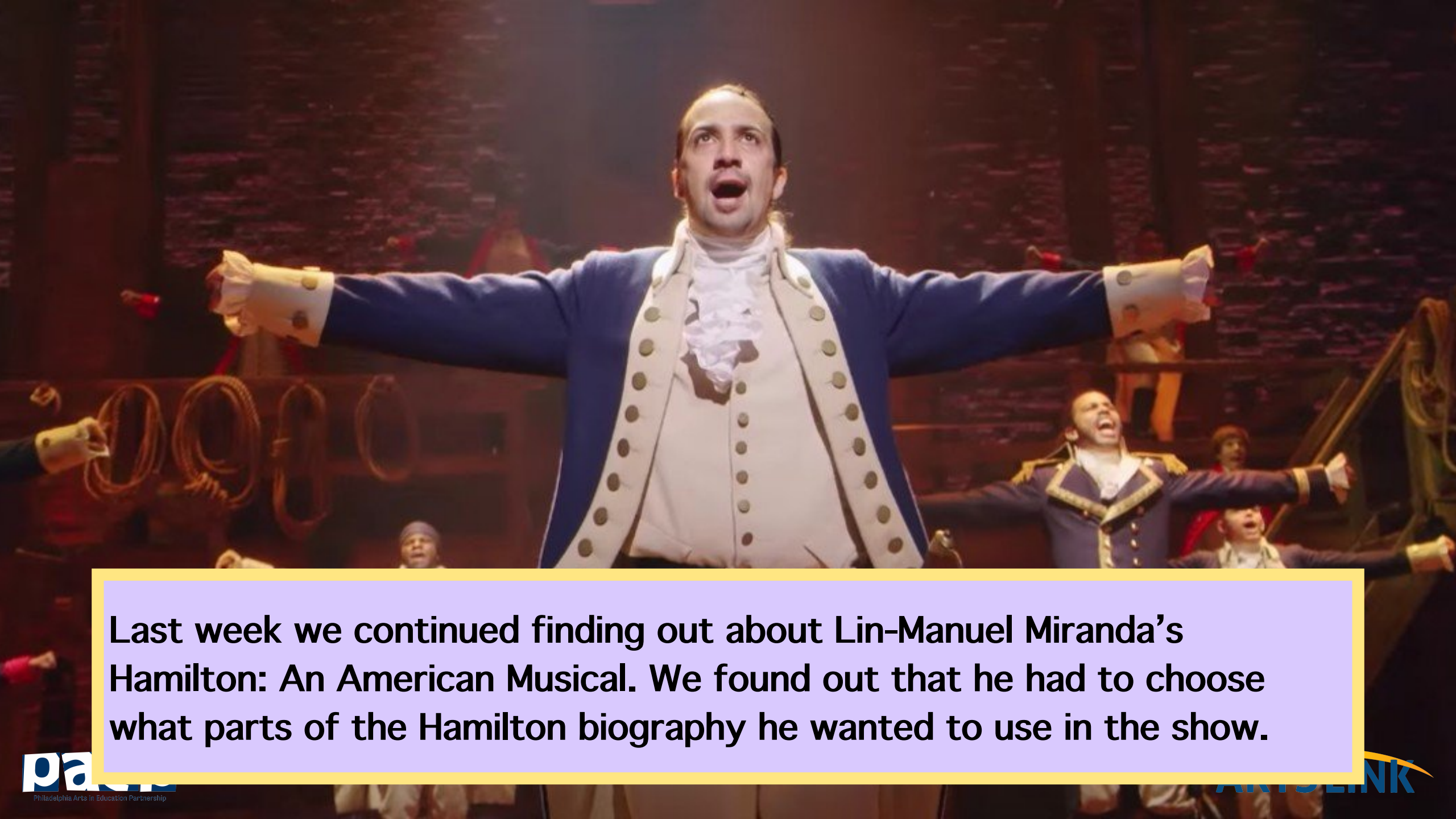


Biographical Soundtrack

Part 3: Making The Pitch



REMEMBER LAST WEEK?



Last week we continued finding out about Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Hamilton: An American Musical. We found out that he had to choose what parts of the Hamilton biography he wanted to use in the show.

I decided to cut out his time wearing diapers.



Then he had to turn that information into 46 different songs and make sure that it still made sense.

ACT I

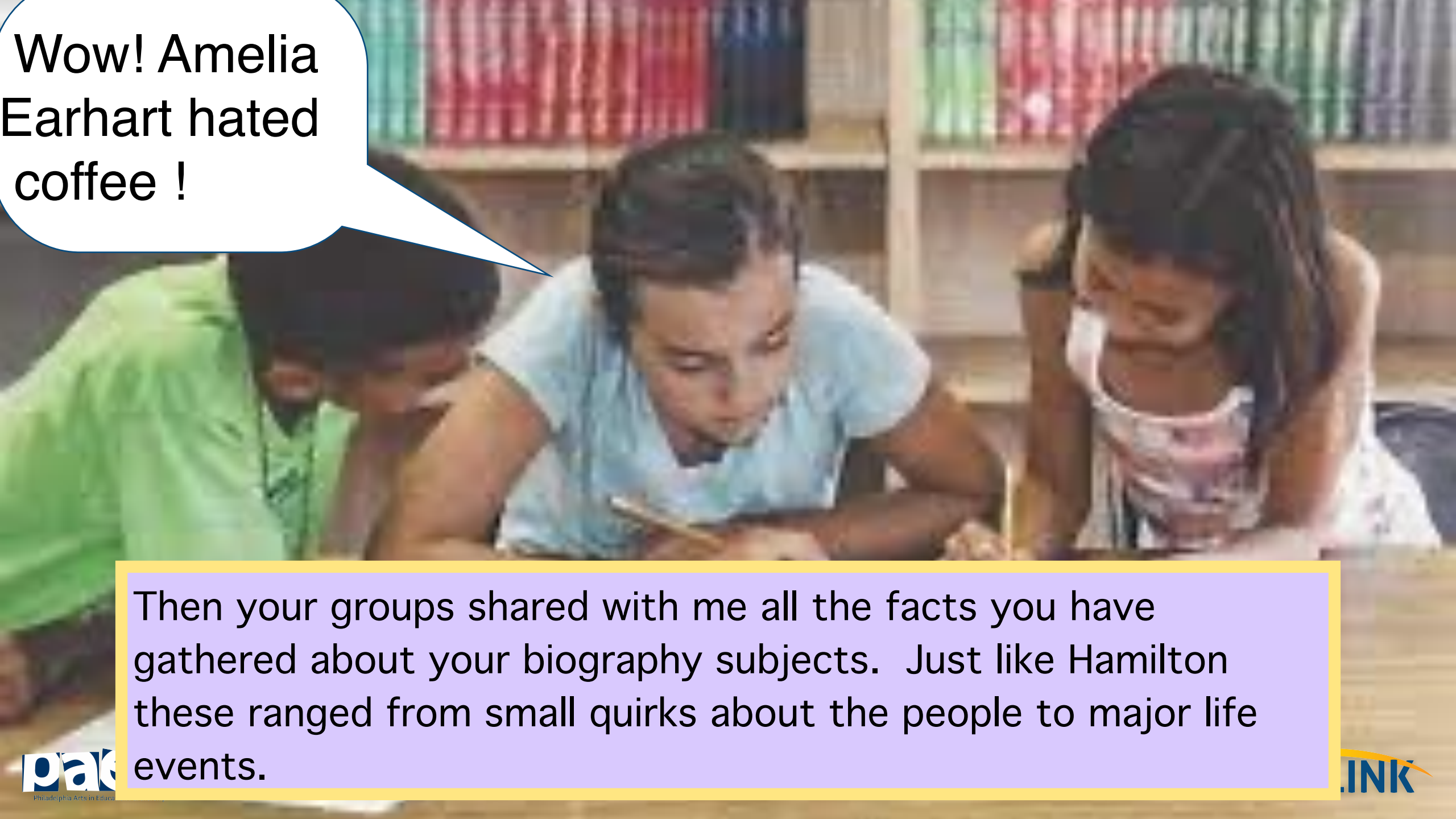
1. ALEXANDER HAMILTON
2. AARON BURR, SIR
3. MY SHOT
4. THE STORY OF TONIGHT
5. THE SCHUYLER SISTERS
6. FARMER REFUTED
7. YOU'LL BE BACK
8. RIGHT HAND MAN
9. A WINTER'S BALL
10. HELPLESS
11. SATISFIED
12. THE STORY OF TONIGHT (REPRISE)
13. WAIT FOR IT
14. STAY ALIVE
15. TEN DUEL COMMANDMENTS
16. MEET ME INSIDE
17. THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH
18. GUNS AND SHIPS
19. HISTORY HAS ITS EYES ON YOU
20. YORKTOWN (THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN)
21. WHAT COMES NEXT?
22. DEAR THEODOSIA
23. NON-STOP

ACT II

1. WHAT'D I MISS
2. CABINET BATTLE #1
3. TAKE A BREAK
4. SAY NO TO THIS
5. THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS
6. SCHUYLER DEFEATED

Then he had to turn that information into 46 different songs and make sure that it still made sense. The song titles ran from straightforward to poetic.

21. BEST OF WIVES AND BEST OF WOMEN
22. THE WORLD WAS WIDE ENOUGH
23. WHO LIVES, WHO DIES, WHO TELLS YOUR STORY

A photograph of three students in a library setting. A young man in a light blue t-shirt is leaning over a table, looking at a book. To his left, a young man in a green shirt is also looking at the book. To his right, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a white top, is looking down at the book. In the background, there are bookshelves filled with books. A white speech bubble with a blue border is positioned in the upper left corner, containing the text 'Wow! Amelia Earhart hated coffee !'. A yellow rectangular box with a purple background is at the bottom, containing a paragraph of text. The 'pa' logo is in the bottom left corner, and the 'INK' logo is in the bottom right corner.

Wow! Amelia Earhart hated coffee !

Then your groups shared with me all the facts you have gathered about your biography subjects. Just like Hamilton these ranged from small quirks about the people to major life events.



Hamilton: An American Musical! This went on to become one of the top musicals of all time and changed the way a biography can be turned into a play.

VOCABULARY!



PRODUCER

I want Mr. M. to direct this new hit show!

The producers are where a show begins in the world of theater. They get together all the money that is needed for the show. They will help negotiate contracts and set ticket prices. They also will hire the director. Along the way they are brought in to help with many decisions of how the show will look.

PITCH

A man in a green and white plaid shirt stands on the left, pointing at a whiteboard and holding a tablet. Three people (two men and one woman) are seated on the right, listening attentively. The setting is a bright, modern office with large windows and indoor plants.

So, it's a musical about oatmeal?

This isn't like a pitch in baseball. When you want to have your play put into a big theater you may have to use a sales pitch. The producers will want to hear all about your show so you have to have a rehearsed small presentation put together to tell them all about it.



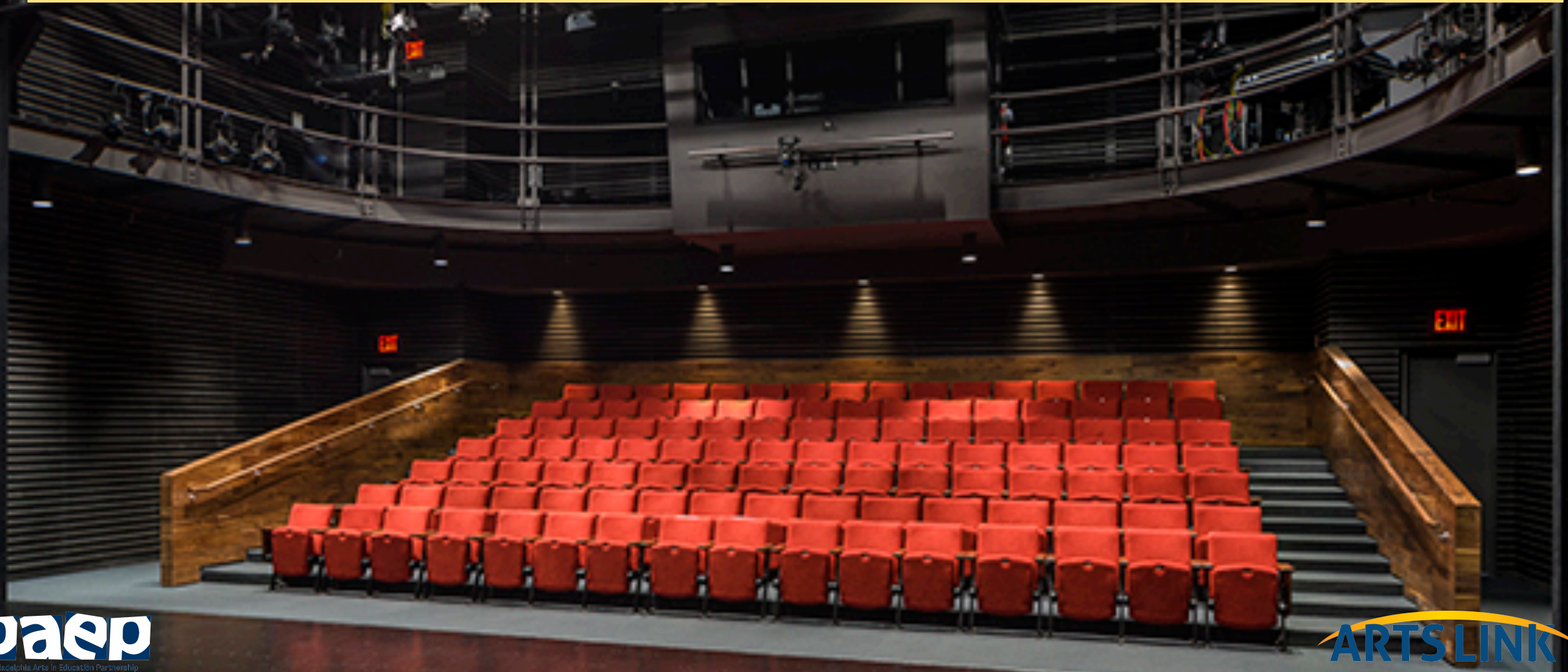
I could have done 47 but I didn't want to show off.

Just like any other playwrights, Lin-Manuel had to pitch his show to producers. If you have a great new show you can't just show up on Broadway and expect to pick a theater. You have to start in the minor leagues first.

Before your show is on Broadway it will most likely start in an Off-Broadway theater. There are many differences between Broadway and Off-Broadway theaters. Most notably is size. A Broadway theater can have 500 seats and up. These are big houses.



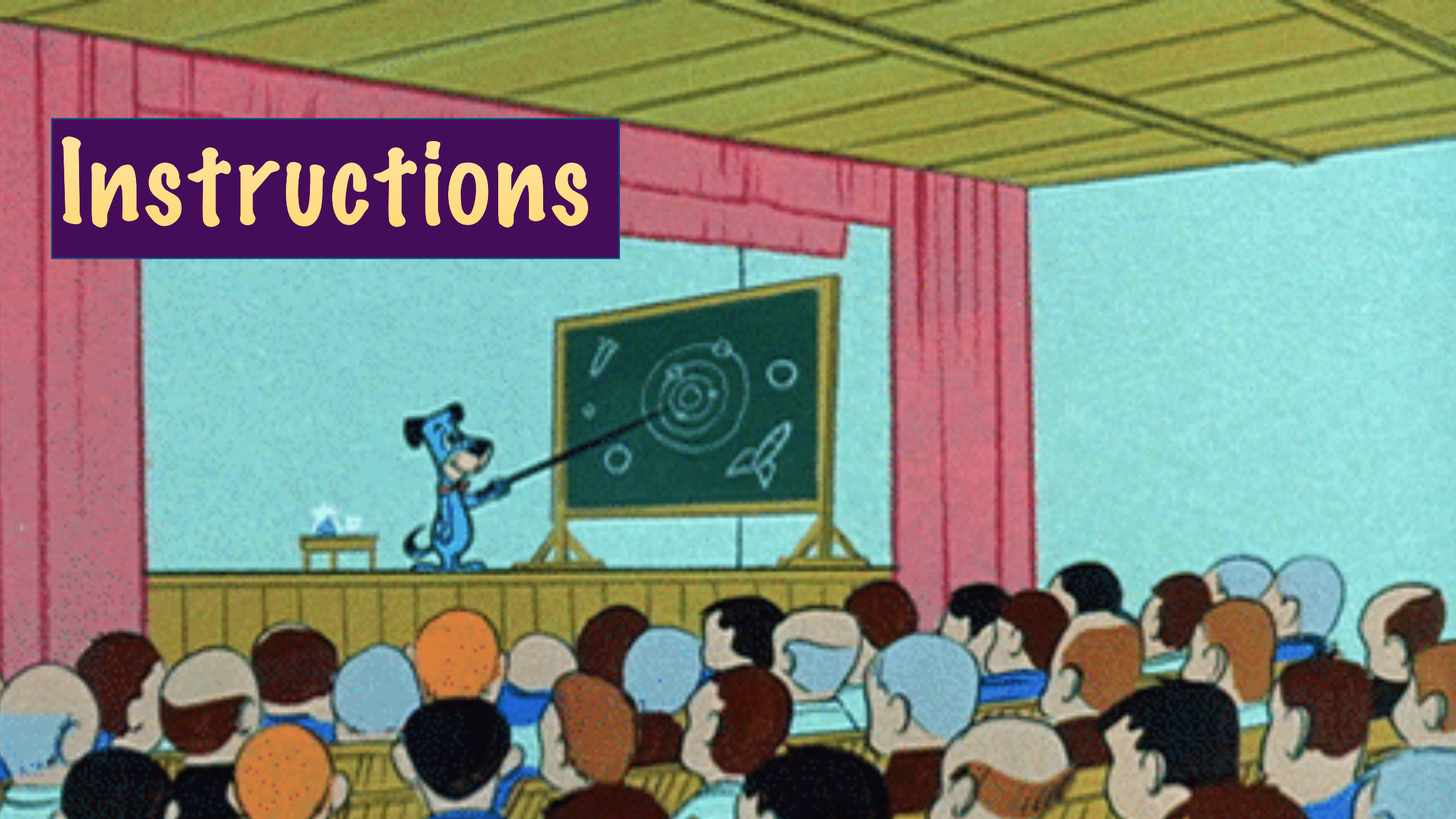
An Off-Broadway theater can have anywhere from 100-499 seats. Though these are smaller theaters they are still professional and get serious reviews. These are the theaters where up and coming playwrights bring their new work.

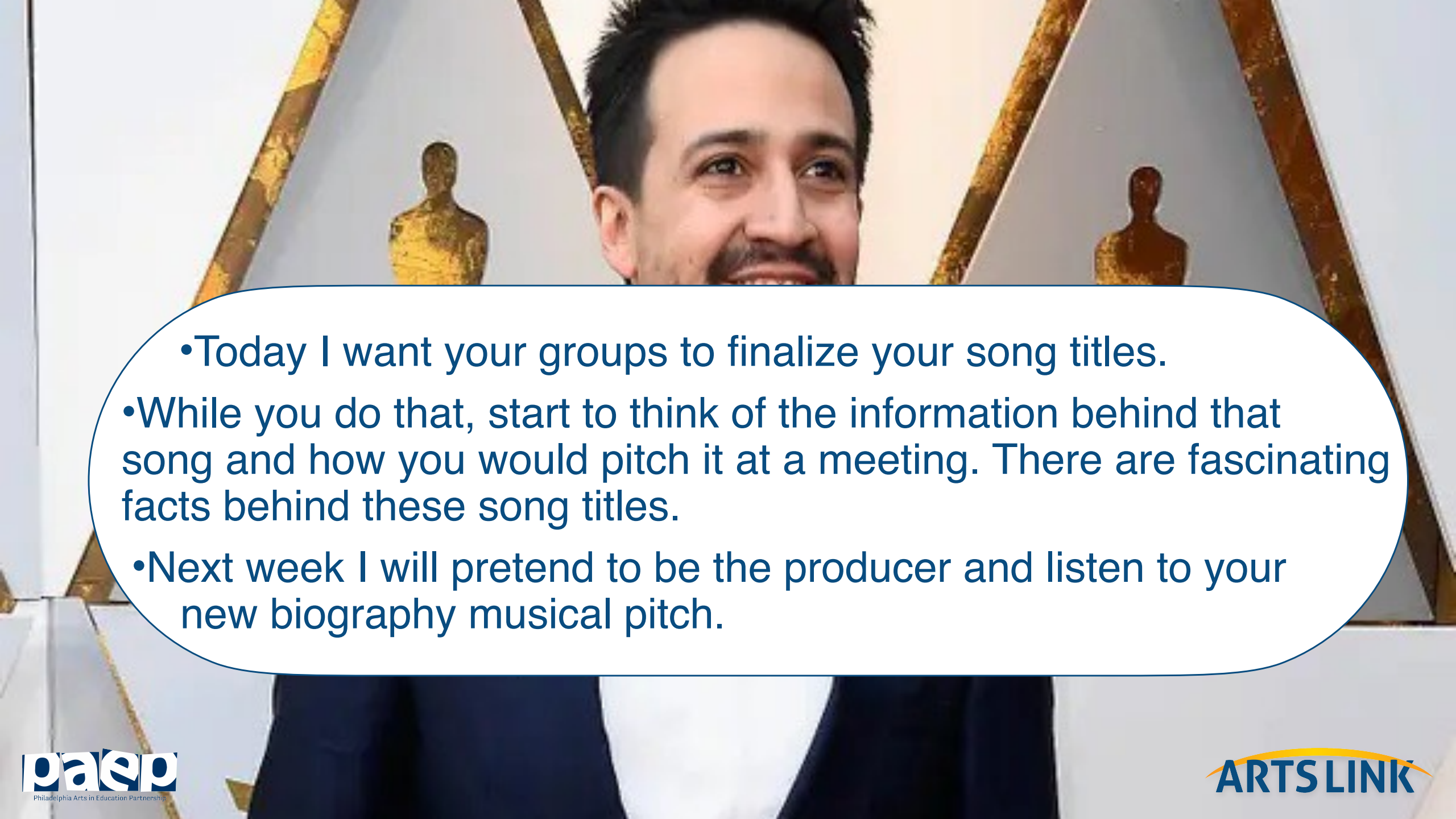


Here you can see the difference in the types of buildings. Not all shows that start in these smaller venues make it to Broadway. But all of them had to pitch their ideas to the Off-Broadway theater producers to take their shot.



Instructions



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- Today I want your groups to finalize your song titles.
 - While you do that, start to think of the information behind that song and how you would pitch it at a meeting. There are fascinating facts behind these song titles.
 - Next week I will pretend to be the producer and listen to your new biography musical pitch.