On the inspiration of Lin-Manur-Miranda musical Hamilton

Yizhang Feng1, 2, Kexu Chen3

1Wuhan Institute of design and sciences, China
2Jackie Chen Film and Media College, China
3Goldsmiths University of London, Chongqing, China

Abstract: Lin-manuel-Miranda's musical "Hamilton" as the fastest in the history of Broadway music costs and began to profitable musical with its pioneer music style and the core values of drama structure in the world stage, the success of the Broadway musical is not only in the history, also for the development of world musical provides unprecedented possibilities. The success of Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical "Hamilton" has had a profound impact on the world of theater, particularly in the realm of musicals. Its pioneering music style and the core values of drama structure have opened up new possibilities for the development of musicals worldwide. The widespread appeal and profitability of "Hamilton" have inspired artists to experiment with different genres and storytelling techniques, pushing the boundaries of what is considered traditional musical theater. Furthermore, the global interest in historical and biographical musicals that "Hamilton" has generated has enriched the cultural landscape of musical theater, offering audiences a diverse range of stories and perspectives. Overall, "Hamilton" has left an indelible mark on the world stage, paving the way for future innovations in the field of musical theater.

Keywords: Lin-Manur-Miranda; musical works; Hamilton; drama creation inspiration.

1. Introduction

Lin-Manuel Miranda's groundbreaking musical, "Hamilton," has captivated audiences worldwide with its innovative storytelling and unique blend of hip-hop, R&B, and traditional Broadway music. This essay aims to delve into the dramatic insights that this musical offers to the field of theatrical creation. By examining the themes, character development, and narrative structure of "Hamilton," we can gain a deeper understanding of the creative possibilities within the realm of drama.

In essence, "Hamilton" is a groundbreaking musical that offers invaluable insights into the world of theatrical creation. Its themes of identity and legacy, coupled with its exceptional character development and innovative narrative structure, make it a truly transformative piece of art. Moreover, its commitment to collaboration and inclusivity sets a new standard for the industry, encouraging artists to push boundaries and create works that resonate with diverse audiences.

2. Background in the Musical Hamilton

Since its premiere in 2015, the musical Hamilton has won the global audience with its unique musical style, innovative stage design and strong social awareness. The creative background of the play can be discussed from the following aspects. First, Hamilton was inspired by the life of Alexander Hamilton, one of the founders of the United States. Hamilton is an important politician and economist in American history. His life story is full of passion and controversy, which provides rich material for his biography. Alexander Hamilton, a biography written by Ron Chernow, detailed Hamilton's life story, providing a reliable historical basis for the creation of musicals. Secondly, Hamilton makes bold attempts in musical style, combining pop music, hip-hop, R & B and other elements with traditional musicals to form a unique musical style. This non-traditional creative technique brings a brand new viewing experience to musicals. After reading several chapters of the biography on the plane, he began to imagine how to adapt Hamilton's story into a musical, based on a variety of musical elements to make Hamilton's musical style unique. Moreover, the stage design of Hamilton is simple and creative, combining lighting and projection effects to create a rich visual effect for the audience. This stage design technique enhances the expression of the plot to a great extent. In a limited space, through the use of mobile stage and multimedia technology, the creators successfully reproduced the American society of the late 18th century. In addition, the creation background of Hamilton Hamilton also contains social factors. In the United States in the early 21st century, race, power, politics and other issues became the focus of social discussion. Hamilton reflects the diversity and inclusiveness of American society by telling the struggle of an immigrant descendant during the American Revolutionary War and its founding. The depiction of characters of different races, classes and sexual orientations makes the musical have a strong realistic significance. To sum up, the creation background of Hamilton covers many aspects, including historical origin, musical style, stage design and social background. These backgrounds provide rich materials and inspiration for the creation of the musical, making it a good work of contemporary significance and artistic value. Through the analysis of the creative background of the play, we can understand how American musicals find a balance between tradition and modernity, and then bring an unforgettable dramatic work to the global audience.

The musical Hamilton production was composed and written by Lin-Manur Miranda alone. The lyrics were written for 10 years, all because he wanted to tell a story about 'Hamilton', accompanied by a bold idea to tell the story in hip-hop. Previously, he had experimented with hip-hop elements in musicals, and "Up High" was his first attempt. Making a
connection between musical theater and hip-hop is straightforward. Long before LinManur-Miranda, there were hip-hop elements in musicals, such as "West End Story" and "Hair".

LinManur Miranda was the first artist aspiring to create "hip-hop musical". Musical master Webb said in 2015 that he was the earliest fan of Hamilton."This is the first time I have thought of it." Thank god, this is someone doing something really new in his musical. He was not trying to imitate me or Sondheim or Kant and Eb, but he had a new, highly dramatic, gifted, original voice."Lin-Manuel-Miranda is a musician who knows what drama is, or he is an artist, which enables him to create in an unrestricted style and put the right style into concrete content. Stephen-Sondheim was also an early admirer and mentor of Miranda in creating the play. He told the New York Times. When I first heard Lin-Manuel songs, I immediately thought of the musician's opening track, Rock Island. It was one of the best shows ever, and the first time language was tried to make music in American drama. It doesn't have a rap attitude and no one considers it rap, but its technique is rap." At some point, Lin-Manuel began to tell me about Hamilton, when there was only a mother band. He sent me the printed lyrics and the recordings of the songs. I fear a night of rap will become monotonous; I think the technique is rap." Lin-Manuel's use of rap is that one of his feet has stepped into the past. He understands the drama ".

3. The Power of Historical Reimagining

"Hamilton" takes historical events and figures from America's founding era and presents them in a contemporary and relatable manner. This reimagining of history allows for a fresh perspective on familiar stories, challenging conventional narratives and encouraging audiences to question their assumptions. In the realm of theatrical creation, this approach reminds us of the importance of exploring new angles and perspectives when adapting historical material, breathing life into well-known tales.

"Hamilton" challenges traditional narrative structures by presenting a story that unfolds through a series of vignettes, rather than following a linear timeline. This non-traditional approach allows for a more dynamic exploration of characters and themes, creating a sense of urgency and momentum. It encourages playwrights to think outside the box and experiment with unconventional storytelling techniques, pushing the boundaries of what theater can achieve.

4. The Creative Content of The Musical Play Hamilton

American-style speech is easy to create rap in a linguistic nature, so when it comes to telling an American political story, Lin-Manuel Miranda works with hip-hop techniques. As a creator of contemporary musicals, he follows the creation law explored by previous creators, and rhythm is an important law of musical lyrics. Hamilton's creative process spanned a decade, and he spent a long time in rhyme (R rhyme). "He respects and understands the value of good rhymes," he added. "Without rhymes, the lines tend to become plain." Jokes can't land as they should be. Even emotional lines don't fall in the way they should be. Rhysody is very important to the perception of the audience, and Lin-Manuel recognizes this, making the score of "Hamilton" more weight than it might have had. Most lyrics are mediocre by their nature - the way of expression that makes them fly. Hamilton was a milestone in theater, but not to create a hip-hop era drama. While Hamilton has a political function and a partial interpretation of American culture, it was originally created based on the creator's interest in Hamilton's content and hip-hop style, rather than trying to create something new. It's not trying to create a breakthrough event to create a hip-hop musical, nor trying to work with a political function. All of Hamilton's effects, not designed to create some effects, conform to the basic laws of dramatic creation. Sondheim, told the New York Times. "Hamilton is a breakthrough, but it does not exactly introduce a new era. Nothing can lead itself into an era. What it does is to give people different ways of thinking.

5. Musical Theatre Development

Since the development of a hundred years, the musical has maintained a strong vitality, because many creators are willing to add fresh elements to the musical. In musicals, storytelling is music and dance, which is an important way to express dramatic events. Different from drama, drama tells a story by directly restoring events through language. There's always an innovator, someone experimenting with new forms first. Some things, when they succeed, people will imitate them. That is the case with Oklahoma; and Hair (a 1960's Broadway musical) has the same effect. Eventually, however, people stop imitating, and the form matures. Hair asks a young writer to say, "Let's use rock music as a way to tell stories. Now they will say," Let's use rap as a way to tell stories." Famous American actor Howard Sherman praised how Miranda took everything he loved and refused to recognize the difference between them, " and added. He liked Rogers and Hammerstein, the Beatles, Leonard Bernstein, hip hop, and Chance the Rapper, all of his hobbies. As an artist, this work is demonstrating the unity of our dream nation, and "Hamilton is a reminder that America can be a force for good." From the perspective of Chinese drama creation, Hamilton also gives us some inspiration to drama workers. There is no lack of works in Chinese society that represent our ancestors and carry forward the theme of The Times. However, how to make such works happy to the common people at the same time, but also can really go abroad to promote the Chinese culture to achieve cultural confidence. So we will definitely see more rap musicals, and the next thing we might see is Lincoln set in rap. One predictable thing is that any style can be used in musical theatre. People think about what style to tell a good story, any work that is regarded as experimental in the moment can be born, this is the charm of drama. "Hamilton" portrays its characters with depth and complexity, humanizing historical figures who are often seen as distant icons. The diversity of the cast, both in terms of ethnicity and gender, challenges traditional casting norms and allows for a broader representation of voices and experiences. This serves as a reminder to playwrights and creators to explore diverse perspectives and embrace inclusivity in their work, fostering a more inclusive and representative theater landscape.

6. The Fusion of Music and Storytelling

The musicality of "Hamilton" is one of its defining features. Miranda seamlessly blends different genres of music to
enhance the emotional impact of the story. The use of rap battles, for example, not only adds energy and excitement but also serves as a powerful tool for character development and conflict resolution. This fusion of music and storytelling demonstrates the potential for incorporating diverse art forms into theatrical works, creating a multi-dimensional experience for the audience.

Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical masterpiece, "Hamilton," offers valuable insights into the world of theatrical creation. Through its historical reimagining, fusion of music and storytelling, complex characterization, emphasis on collaboration, and non-traditional narrative structure, it inspires playwrights and creators to think innovatively and push the boundaries of their craft. As theater continues to evolve, "Hamilton" serves as a reminder of the transformative power of drama and the endless possibilities for creative expression within the medium.

Reference Documentation