

The Hamilcast: A Hamilton Podcast
[Episode #2: Here comes the GeneRAL!](#)

Hosts: Gillian Pensavalle and Bianca Soto
Guest: Ashley Graffeo

Description: Gillian and Bianca talk to Ashley Graffeo, a teacher at NYC's Harvey Milk High School, about how she uses "Hamilton" to get her students excited about American History. Spoiler alert: it totally works and there may or may not be rap battles involved. She also tells a story about the truly badass Peggy Schuyler. "My Shot" instrumental provided by Bao Vu.

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The Hamilcast's Transcribing Army

Ok, so we are doing this . . .

[Music: Opening notes of Hamilton]

GILLIAN PENSAVALLE: I think we're gonna dance every time—the intro—every intro.

BIANCA SOTO: How can you not?

G. PEN: Hi everybody!

B. SO: Hi, welcome back!

G. PEN: Welcome back! Episode two of the Hamilcast. I am Gillian Pensavalle.

B. SO: I am Bianca Soto

G. PEN: And we are going to start this episode, this whole episode actually, we spoke about somebody named Ashley Graffeo last episode, she is my best friend, she is a history teacher, she is a fellow Ham-obsessor. So, we are going to have her on for a little segment we like to call:

[Music: Right Hand Man is played]

"Here comes the general!"

[End Right Hand Man]

[Laughs]

G. PEN: Because it's just perfect because she actually knows things about Hamilton, so hello, Ashley!

ASHLEY GRAFFEO: Hello, hello!

G. PEN: How are you?

A. GRAFF: I'm delightful! I'm delightful, very happy, very excited to be a part of this.

G. PEN: Oh, well, we're happy to have you

B. SO: Thank you for joining us on the Hamilcast

G. PEN: Yes!

A. GRAFF: Let's do this!

G. PEN: Okay, so we're doing this! So, Ashley and I have been friends since the first day of high school

A. GRAFF: Yep, forever

B. SO: Which was yesterday

G. PEN: Which was last year

A. GRAFF: I'm only actually twenty

G. PEN: Yes, but that little intro to your segment is appropriate because you were president of the student government in high school

A. GRAFF: Yes, yes. It's my highest achievement so far

G. PEN: I think you're on a plaque in the hallway, right? Don't they have—

A. GRAFF: I am, yeah, I'm still up there

G. PEN: I was kicked off

B. SO: [Laughs] Oh no!

G. PEN: I was the female social representative and I cheated on a paper and they kicked me off.

B. SO: That's not at all representative of government practices

G. PEN: But I was the social representative, I was like the social butterfly—whatever.

[Laughter] I'm not mad about it.

B. SO: No grudges are being held

G. PEN: No grudges, no duels at Weehawken

A. GRAFF: Yeah, not a big deal.

G. PEN: Not a big deal. So, Ashley, tell us a little about yourself. You are a global teacher?

A. GRAFF: Yeah, well I teach both global history and American history, and participation in government...I teach a lot, yeah

G. PEN: You teach a lot

A. GRAFF: I teach a lot of random, historical stuff

G. PEN: Right. And you teach at Harvey Milk High School.

A. GRAFF: Yep, in New York City, so, you know, the best of the best.

G. PEN: Yeah, of course. So, you studied—you were a history major.

A. GRAFF: Yeah, I was a history major in college, really was super into European history at the time but as time has gone on, I am fascinated by American history, so Hamilton is, like, right up my alley.

G. PEN: Right. You use the show to help—'cause, you know, high school kids, sometimes they're hard to stay focused, I've heard

B. SO: I don't know anything about that

A. GRAFF: I would say on a good day, we have a ratio of, like, maybe one to two kids sleeping per teacher

G. PEN: Oh, great

A. GRAFF: Yeah, it's a good time, so they really like Hamilton because it's, um, you know, the first half of American history is pretty boring up until the Revolutionary War, so it was tough getting kids to pay attention in general, but once I started playing Hamilton you could see them bobbing their heads and now they actually ask to listen to it during lunch and they'll come in and kids have

challenged me to rap battles [laughter] along to the lyrics, you know, they've asked me to meet them outside, [laughter] it's perfect, it's been awesome.

G. PEN: Has anyone mastered Lafayette's rap?

A. GRAFF: Student-wise, no, but another teacher at the school and I have gone head to head, to battle

G. PEN: Really?

B. SO: Wow!

A. GRAFF: Yes, yes we have

B. SO: Toe to toe...

G. PEN: Toe to toe!

A. GRAFF: But it was a closed door session because we both were, like, insanely dorky as we were doing it, so

G. PEN: Well, yeah

A. GRAFF: Didn't really want to let any of the kids really kind of see that side of us

B. SO: Were you whisper-rapping so nobody else would know?

A. GRAFF: Well, yeah, a little bit, but we also waited until the end of the day and then we just blasted it in a classroom, and we're basically standing just three feet away from each other, just rapping at each other, it was ridiculous.

G. PEN: Like something from the show, or you guys were just rapping for the sake of it?

A. GRAFF: Oh, sometimes we just have little sing alongs for the hell of it, but it was "Guns and Ships"

G. PEN: Oh, okay!

A. GRAFF: Yeah, no, I totally failed, it was horrible. [Laughter] Horrible!

G. PEN: We were talking about how I know what words are coming next, but it takes my brain and my mouth a little while to connect

A. GRAFF: I can do the first part pretty well

B. SO: Oh, first part, first part—

G. PEN: Yeah

A. GRAFF: But then my tongue just starts tripping over itself right into the next part

B. SO: And then you can't get back on track

A. GRAFF: Yeah. It's bad.

G. PEN: I even sometimes think, like, how many times have they screwed up "quid pro quo"?

A. GRAFF: Yeah!

G. PEN: Because that's not even a rap, that's just a hard thing to say, I don't know if it's just me, it's kind of, it's a little difficult, I have to think about it.

A. GRAFF: Yeah, like, "quick pro quo"

G. PEN: Yeah, quid pro quo, yeah

A. GRAFF: My brain cannot wrap around it [laughter] get it?

G. PEN: Ha, get it? It's just, always...so now, 'cause you have certain books, right? Like, you have that book of all of his documents that Alexander Hamilton ever wrote? Did you have that before the show or are you just now realizing, like, "Oh, this is, I have this at my disposal because I'm a teacher so I'm just going to actually read the Reynolds Pamphlet"?

A. GRAFF: Well, so, I didn't get this book that has all of his writings, I didn't actually have this until probably, like, three, four weeks ago, but over the summer I found out that I was teaching American history this semester, and I had never taught it before, and so I was kind of terrified, basically, to take this on, but I was like, you know what, maybe I should read some stuff over the summer and kind of learn about it and I picked up the Chernow book on Hamilton because I also, you know, I knew there was the show and I knew it was impossible to get tickets so I was like, alright, I'll read the book and see if I can get into it and that kind of led me on a journey to find literally anything Hamilton related that I could find and so I've been trying to read his writings and oh, man, I mean, he was a smart man

G. PEN: They're tough!

A. GRAFF: Oh! Man, it is so tough

G. PEN: They're really tough to read. I haven't cracked open the Chernow book, but we will be, so everyone do your homework

A. GRAFF: Oh yes, absolutely, totally worth it.

G. PEN: We'll be tackling the introduction and the first chapter in our next episode

B. SO: In episode three

G. PEN: Um, but he even said, there's like a little disclaimer where it's like, "Just for the sake of understanding, I've changed some of the..."

A. GRAFF: Oh yeah! He had to paraphrase—

G. PEN: He had to modernize some of the—

A. GRAFF: It's so hard!

B. SO: Oh my goodness...my head already hurts

A. GRAFF: I was trying to decide if I wanted to teach, like, if I wanted to give kids the actual Federalist Papers, and I took a little pamphlet home one weekend, I tried to read through them, and I was like, it just wouldn't be fair! It wouldn't be fair. They'd all be mad at me, they'd revolt, it would be terrible.

G. PEN: You were saying this, and another teacher friend of mine who teaches high school history and like basically everything else but he was saying too about the Federalist Papers, like that, and also these are the questions I ask people now, "Have you ever read the Federalist Papers?" This is what my life is.

[Laughter]

A. GRAFF: It's a good conversation starter

G. PEN: It's a great way to, yeah. But he was saying, and you had mentioned too that there's just so much in it that you almost have to do research, like, "Who are they talking about? Whose side are they on? What is going on?"

A. GRAFF: Yeah, absolutely, I mean there's so many other, tons of minutia within those letters, like, you know, references to local issues, and, you know, Hamilton wrote his when he was back in New York, so, you know, he was really, he was writing them to the people of New York state to try and get their support to ratify the Constitution, so it's like, he brings up these little minute details, but it's also, he's so arrogant, he writes them anonymously but writes his name as "Publius"

[laughter] yeah, and like referencing ancient Rome and it's like, oh, my god, it's like eighty seven layers per paper

G. PEN: Oh my god...

B. SO: It's like, gee, I wonder who wrote this?

G. PEN: Yeah!

A. GRAFF: Yeah! Seriously, it's insane.

G. PEN: There are fifty one, fifty one—

A. GRAFF: He wrote the other fifty one

G. PEN: —ones that are very dense and similar, I wonder—

A. GRAFF: They are, it's crazy. And then you know there's other really stimulating readings, like "Report on Public Credit" [laughter] I mean, page turner. Page turner.

G. PEN: Yeah, I still don't know how taxes work, really, just the bank, it scares me. Maybe because I don't really have any money, [laughter] but it just feels like, I feel like I'm doing it wrong all the time

B. SO: I feel like if we had money, it would be even harder because then we'd have to figure out what to properly do with it

G. PEN: Right

A. GRAFF: Oh my gosh

[Laughter]

G. PEN: That's a nice way to look at it

B. SO: That's an optimistic way to look at it

A. GRAFF: We're actually, we're protecting ourselves in the long run

G. PEN: It's true. It's all part of the plan

A. GRAFF: Yep.

G. PEN: So, what are some—and this is not, Lin, 'cause I know you're listening—we're not, this isn't like a jab or a dig in any way, but there are some technical

historical inaccuracies for the sake of the story telling. Are there any that stand out to you, Ash, 'cause, like, I know we mentioned a little bit in the last episode that Hamilton actually wasn't working with Washington anymore when Washington resigned but he did write those documents, is that true?

A. GRAFF: Yeah, he wrote the farewell address, you know, I guess in the show for the sake of art, they had to make—you know, Hamilton is like a protégé to Washington, and that was absolutely true, he was a protégé, but he definitely did not appreciate Washington in the way that you're led to believe in the show that he might have. He was kind of always this, like, reluctant mentee, and he was kinda, he had this chip on his shoulder, you know, which I think Lin does very well

G. PEN: Yeah, "Don't call me son"

A. GRAFF: [Laughs] But he really kind of never, I don't think he—and I mean, I'm making a big assumption here—but it seems, based on everything I've read that he didn't really appreciate the fact that George Washington was his mentor, but he absolutely understood like his responsibilities towards him, and so even when he wasn't at Secretary of Treasury anymore, he led a battalion, I think, at the Whiskey Rebellion

G. PEN: To remind...them of his love?

[Laughter]

G. PEN: It's such a safe space, you can't really do this with everybody, you guys, so when the references come up, this is what we're here for. Because everyone listening at home, like Lin, I'm sure, is making those references as well.

A. GRAFF: Yep, absolutely.

G. PEN: Anyway, you were saying...

A. GRAFF: No, but, you know, he understood that as a Founding Father of the nation, he had responsibilities and those responsibilities included, like, sucking it up and doing stuff that maybe he didn't want to do, the fact that maybe he didn't want to leave the Secretary position or, you know, come back and keep helping after he wasn't there anymore, but he did it, you know, 'cause he was—I mean, that's the one thing about Hamilton, he completely understood, I think, his role in shaping this country and he took that very, very seriously. Which is very evident when you look at anything—I mean the fact that his writings, the book with his writings is like, a thousand pages long, that's no joke, the guy wrote an insane amount of information, you know, about starting a country. How great is that? And he was quite a looker

[Laughter]

B. SO: If we're getting to the real important details

A. GRAFF: Yeah, I mean, he was well known for his sexual prowess, in fact

B. SO: So we've heard

G. PEN: I know, and I was kind of surprised about that. And this is actually an interesting segway into the relationship between Ham and John Laurens

B. SO: Mmmm...

A. GRAFF: Oh, yes!

G. PEN: Which, and again, I haven't seen it...yet...Bianca, maybe you can chime in, I don't know if they reference that or act that in any way

B. SO: Uh, no, I don't think that they do at all because it would've stood out to me before I learned of this information

G. PEN: Yeah, well actually, here's the information, in case people are lost. There are some letters, look it up, it's like the first thing when you Google Hamilton Laurens, letters is the first suggestion from Google. The letters that they sent back and forth to each other, they had a lot of affection for each other, which I understand, you're building a country, the bonds that you form with these people, I get. But there's some letters where he's basically, like, oh, Eliza's a nice girl, but I love you. And but in fifteen zillion words because it's Hamilton, but [laughter] right, twenty pages later, um, so there's kind of, there's been some talk about it, but I don't think it matters one way or the other.

B. SO: Not one bit, and I don't think it's at all really touched on in the show, um, that you just get the sense that they are in this together and they're obviously fighting for the same goal

G. PEN: Right

A. GRAFF: But they write essays against slavery

B. SO: Exactly

G. PEN: Right, of course, yeah, they're buddies. But yeah, I mean, I don't know how you can not have such a deep affection for these people doing what they were doing, like it blows my mind, I can't even imagine—how do you even start that? Like, what is the conversation? "Hey, you guys, we're just gonna start this

country, who's in?" What is that? It just feels so, so huge, such a big, big thing to do.

A. GRAFF: Yeah, I mean, it's nuts too because, not only were they in the process of creating this brand new government, this brand new country and way of life, they were also fighting a war, a pretty horrendous war as it was, and they were in New York and New York was actually taken over by the British, so they were here when Manhattan was, you know, under siege. And, I mean, I have no point of reference because I've never been in a war, um, but, you know, I've seen many movies on wars [laughter] I think, um—

G. PEN: Yeah you're qualified. Totally qualified.

A. GRAFF: But yeah, you know, they form this bond and I think that might be partially reflective in their letters as well

G. PEN: Yeah. And that being said too, I really, I do think he loved Eliza, he did.

A. GRAFF: I do too. Yeah.

G. PEN: But it's hard to just even comment on it because we've never been through that and we never will.

B. SO: How long did it even take letters to get back and forth? Like the whole process, it has to be so long...

A. GRAFF: It would have been weeks. It would have been weeks.

B. SO: Unbelievable. And we're so impatient now.

[Laughter]

G. PEN: We're so impatient.

A. GRAFF: Yeah. If somebody doesn't text me back within, like, ten minutes, I'm like, well, the friendship's over

G. PEN: They hate me. And we have little, those receipts that show you when people read texts, there's no, like,

A. GRAFF: I had to turn those off because it gave me anxiety, so those are gone now.

G. PEN: And it's okay to read a text and not, if you're in the middle of something, but when people see that it's like, what, well, it's over. Clearly my "Hey, what are you doing later" is not as important as I thought it was. How dare they.

A. GRAFF: Mmm-hmm. Exactly. And actually, looking at some of the letters that he wrote Eliza, he mentions, like, “How is your little sister? Is she as sprightly as ever? I am in very good health and shall be in very good spirits when I meet you, my Betsy.”

G. PEN: Oh, come on.

A. GRAFF: Like, come on.

G. PEN: How adorable is that?

A. GRAFF: Adorable.

G. PEN: Can you please tell everyone what a badass Peggy is? “And Peggy”? She is a badass.

A. GRAFF: Yeah, I mean, well you’re gonna read about it in, when you guys get further into the Chernow, but, and I might be getting some details wrong here, because I read this book a couple months ago, so, but there’s a story about how during the war, there was an attack on the Schuyler house by the red coats, and I think it also might have been in conjunction with the Native Americans, I—again, check this—um, one of the sister’s babies was left downstairs when everybody ran upstairs. And Peggy realized it, Peggy ran downstairs, grabbed the baby, and from behind, as she’s running up the stairs, somebody flung a tomahawk at her, and it, like, lodged in the wall, and she just casually kept running up the stairs with an infant. Peggy’s awesome.

G. PEN: Yeah. And if you saw that in a movie, you’d be like, “That’s ridiculous.”

B. SO: No, that’s like some Tarantino—

G. PEN: Yeah, she’s the bride in that

A. GRAFF: I feel like I actually might have seen that in the movie “Last of the Mohicans”, I feel like I’ve seen that before.

G. PEN: Remember how much we used to love that movie, Ashley, “Last of the Mohicans”?

A. GRAFF: How much I *used to*?

[Laughter]

G. PEN: [Laughing] I’m sorry. I meant—

A. GRAFF: Whenever it's on, I watch the entire thing.

G. PEN: So, yeah, I'm excited to get through the book, it feels a little dense, but that's kinda why we're doing this podcast because I think some people are just like, "Well, no, that's scary."

B. SO: Yeah. It'll motivate us to take it piece by piece and not look at it as the daunting, massive paper that it is.

G. PEN: Yeah.

A. GRAFF: Yeah, and, honestly, I have been reading history textbooks for almost, like, oh God, almost ten years now? And it does not feel like a textbook, it really reads like a story. I remember reading it, and sitting here, being, like, "Wow, I'm getting through, like, chapter after chapter. Who would've thought?" You know, and then when I read that that is exactly what Lin did when he was on his vacation, I was like, I get it. I understand.

B. SO: It's like, what person in their right mind decides to pick this up for their vacation reading?

G. PEN: Right, I know!

A. GRAFF: I, I might have, I might have done that.

G. PEN: Well that's why you and Lin are clearly best friends because—

A. GRAFF: Well, obviously, I haven't told you yet, but he is my best friend.

G. PEN: Oh good, okay. That's nice.

B. SO: Oh wow.

A. GRAFF: This is uncomfortable.

[Laughter]

G. PEN: It's also awesome

A. GRAFF: Yeah, I've got tickets for everybody for tomorrow.

G. PEN: Oh great! Oh good.

B. SO: But, so where are you at with your countdown? You're at eighteen days, right?

A. GRAFF: Yes! Eighteen days now.

G. PEN: Oh man.

B. SO: Eighteen days until Ashley sees “Hamilton”.

A. GRAFF: I will be sitting in the mezzanine, watching.

B. SO: Oh my goodness!

G. PEN: Oh man.

A. GRAFF: I’m so excited! I actually try not to think about it because I’m counting hours when I start to think about it.

G. PEN: I know. I’m so excited for you, when you told me that your friend gave you tickets, I was like, “Congratulations!” I just wanted to congratulate you because that was the only thing—

A. GRAFF: I felt like I’d really won the lottery

G. PEN and B. SO: You did.

G. PEN: You absolutely did.

A. GRAFF: I paid a lot more than I would’ve in the lottery, but, you know, hey?

G. PEN: But hey.

A. GRAFF: Got my ticket.

G. PEN: People are paying—because I bought my tickets through TicketMaster like you do, I keep getting these emails from TicketMaster saying like, oh, there are a few tickets left for the upcoming show. And the first time I got it, I was like, oh, thanks for the heads up TicketMaster. No, no, no. The resale are, like, between \$700 and \$2,000.

A. GRAFF: Yeah. I contemplated for maybe a day whether or not I should just get a new credit card, [laughter] buy a ticket, and then just pay off that credit card and not put anything else on it. And I’m like, you know what, it might be worth it, and I was like, you know what? Rethink that plan. Rethink that plan.

G. PEN: Yeah, and you know just think of all the points you’ll get from just one single purchase

A. GRAFF: I could have flown somewhere, I could have flown to, like, Des Moines, I don't know. I don't know how many miles that is.

B. SO: That's not a bad idea...I mean, we can't be getting new credit cards, you guys.

A. GRAFF: Yeah, no, it's a good show but, come on.

B. SO: I have to patiently wait until September unless magic happens again.

G. PEN: Yeah. That's kind of where I'm at. And I have to say, I'm patting myself on the back, I'm a great friend because I'm not mad at either of you for having seen it or having a countdown in the teen amount of days [laughter] until you're seeing it. I wish everyone well, have a great time, I'm sure it'll be awesome, and I'll just sit here by myself.

B. SO: You can just hit play on the cast recording

G. PEN: At 8:00

G. PEN and B. SO: At 8:05

B. SO: Yeah, hit play and—

A. GRAFF: I actually have a matinee, so...

G. PEN: You know what?

A. GRAFF: I have a Wednesday mat, so...

G. PEN: Okay, well, you know, I hope you have a great time, I really do, actually, I'm not even, I know you're going to because—

A. GRAFF: Don't worry, I'll be obsessively texting both of you with pictures of the Playbill, pictures of my seat, [laughter] pictures of me, like, crying when I'm holding my ticket

B. SO: [Laughing] Just pictures of the empty seat

G. PEN: Like, "This is where I'm going to be sitting, you guys! Right here!"

A. GRAFF: This is where the magic will be happening in front of me for three hours!

G. PEN: Aren't there rules, like, you're not, just in theater—

B. SO: You're actually not allowed to take a picture inside of a Broadway house or of the Playbill because it's technically all under copyright

A. GRAFF: Well, that's coo-koo

B. SO: I know. I once had an usher come up to me because I took a picture of my Playbill—not at Hamilton, it was at the PeeWee Live show [laughter]

A. GRAFF: I took one at that too!

B. SO: So, the usher came up to me and she's like, "You can't do that in here," and I was like, "Why?" Because I didn't know. Then she explained it, and I was like, "That's dumb!" It's just my, it's not even of the stage, it's of the Playbill, which I can also do outside, and I still get the same picture.

G. PEN: Which is everywhere, which is usually the profile picture, you know, whatever logo it is, it's everywhere.

B. SO: Yeah, yeah.

G. PEN: Well that's ridiculous.

B. SO: I think it's a silly thing to try to enforce, but whatever.

A. GRAFF: Oh, well now, now I'm gonna civil disobedience all over that show

B. SO: Whaaaaattttt

G. PEN: What, and, come on—

A. GRAFF: I'm gonna take a million pictures of my Playbill inside

G. PEN: Yeah, just page by page, even the little restaurant ads [laughter] just that, just to really stick it to them

A. GRAFF: Or I'll video tape myself when I count the shows that I've seen at the back of the Playbill. Yeah, I'll do all that.

G. PEN: Yep. And you know whenever we would go to shows, which was all the time in high school, um, we were, like, the standing room only Rent people, we were there all the time. We saw so many people from Hamilton, by the way.

A. GRAFF: No, I know, I know, I think back on it now and I'm like, huh, yeah I've seen a solid amount of them

G. PEN: Yeah and they were, a lot of them were in Rent because Renee, also a very good friend of mine, she was the last Mimi, so she's on that DVD.

A. GRAFF: Yes, she is, which I re-watched the other night [laughter] and cried.

B. SO: I haven't watched it in, like, a year, and so I have to watch it again.

A. GRAFF: You know, it was a Daphne Rubin Vega twenty years later conversation, threw me right back in where I was like, I have to watch this, this is necessary

G. PEN: She's the best. We also, we went through, I never left my Daphne Rubin Vega phase, we used to see her at The Cutting Room and Joe's Pub all the time. We saw her shows, we saw Rocky Horror with Dick Cavett—

A. GRAFF: I cried! I cried when we met her

G. PEN: Oh my God, yeah, there are tears in my eyes in the picture with my frizzy hair and braces. You can see the tears

A. GRAFF: I didn't even have, like, I couldn't even form words in front of her.

G. PEN: I know. And remember, Dick Cavett was like, "You guys care about who I am?" And we were like, "Yeah!" He was shocked, he was shocked that we were young, sixteen year olds and knew who Dick Cavett was and we were like, "Yeah, dude. You're awesome."

A. GRAFF: Or similar to the time where we asked the lead of Footloose if he'd like to go out to dinner with us

[Laughter]

G. PEN: Yeah! Yep, we were shameless.

A. GRAFF: We were seventeen.

G. PEN: Yeah. And I still am. I'm not above asking people things.

B. SO: Wasn't that Jeremy Kushnier?

G. PEN: It sure was.

A. GRAFF: It was Jeremy Kushnier!

G. PEN: It sure was!

A. GRAFF: And he was so nice about it too, he was like, “Oh, thank you so much, but, like, I have a thing

[Laughter]

B. SO: [Laughing] Like, “I would totally come out with you guys”

G. PEN: Yeah, he very sweetly tried to give us a reason. He absolutely didn’t need a reason other than—

B. SO: I just have a hundred other things that I could be doing

G. PEN: Yeah! And also, I don’t know you and it might be weird for me, a grown man, and we were seventeen! But we just wanted to hang, we weren’t weird about it, we weren’t, like, groupies.

A. GRAFF: It could have been weird to other people.

G. PEN: [Laughing] And also, he didn’t know us! So I’m saying, come on, we didn’t, he doesn’t know us from a hole in the wall, so...whatever. It’s going to be very different when—

A. GRAFF: You know what, he would’ve had a great time.

G. PEN: He would’ve, you know what, Jeremy, you really missed out. We could’ve had such a great time. But you know, when the three of us go out to dinner with everyone in Hamilton, they’ll know. It’s different now. They’ll know that we’re just the greatest people to hang out with.

A. GRAFF: This conversation, I think, is proving it.

G. PEN: I think it’s riveting. And I also think they’re really going to want to hang out with people that feel—

A. GRAFF: Talk about hanging out with them so much.

G. PEN: Yeah! I would.

A. GRAFF: That’s my life dream. That’s what I imagine my students do when they go home, [laughter] they talk about coming back to school and hanging out with me.

G. PEN: Yeah, but you’re the cool teacher!

A. GRAFF: Ehh...

G. PEN: You do rap battles!

A. GRAFF: Yeah, but behind closed doors!

G. PEN: But they've asked, they've challenged you! You don't challenge a teacher to a rap battle unless you're—

B. SO: Unless you like them.

G. PEN: Yeah, come on.

A. GRAFF: That's true. Actually, one day, I didn't really have the best lesson, and it was the day after the 60 Minute special, and I just put it on, I was just like, "We're just going to watch this. Sound good? We're in."

G. PEN: Yeah.

A. GRAFF: And the kids just sat there and it was the last period of the day, and they all sat there, like, ten minutes after the bell rang just watching it. It was awesome.

G. PEN: Yeah.

A. GRAFF: Like, when I first played "Guns and Ships" for them, they started laughing and they were like, "Miss, you can understand this?" and I was like, "It took me a few times and close reading of the lyrics, yes, but now I understand it." And one of the girls, she's really cute, she just goes, "Miss...this is lit! This is fire but I can't understand a word this guy is saying, like, can he slow it down?"
[Laughter]

B. SO: [Laughing] Nope!

G. PEN: ...No...

A. GRAFF: And I was like, no, that's the character and it's not a record, I can't, like, slow it...I don't know what you want me to do [laughs]

G. PEN: Yeah. And that's kind of why it's so great that Lafayette doesn't know how to say certain words in the beginning and then he's the fastest rapper.

A. GRAFF: Actually, one of my students loves "One Last Time", he specifically requests it when he comes into my room.

B. SO: [Laughing] Because it's the slowest one?

A. GRAFF: Yeah, he's like, "Miss, can we listen to that George Washington's leaving song?" And I'm like, "Yes, we can!"

B. SO: [Laughing] Where we can understand all the words first time around

G. PEN: It's so cool where I'm not saying "It's Quiet Uptown" but I understand why that's the slow one they're into.

A. GRAFF: Yeah. They like it. Oh no, I won't play them any of the sad songs, like I usually cut it off after "One Last Time" because I was like, "You know what? You'll find out on your own."

B. SO: Wow...

G. PEN: Yeah. They just meet, they have a nice conversation and then they go their separate ways and everything's fine.

A. GRAFF: If a kid shows interest, then I'll tell them the story, but if they don't show interest, then you know what? Look it up.

B. SO: Do they not know how—

A. GRAFF: I mean, they don't know the story of Hamilton, but when I tell them that Alexander Hamilton is killed in a duel in New Jersey by the vice president of the United States—

G. PEN: [Laughing] It's ridiculous!

A. GRAFF: —like, they just look at me, like, no, that's not—

B. SO: That could never happen

A. GRAFF: And I'm like, he's on your ten dollar bill! I'm not making it up!

G. PEN: Yeah, it did, look it up! Hamilton was wearing his glasses!

A. GRAFF: Yep. He threw away his shot.

ALL: Aww, man, ohh no

B. SO: That's uncomfortable.

G. PEN: Yeah. Well Ashley, thank you so much for doing this.

A. GRAFF: This was awesome! Thank you.

B. SO: Thank you so much.

A. GRAFF: It was great. I'll come back and play any time you guys want.

G. PEN: Yes! Because I really like your intro of "Here comes the general" so...if only because I want to use that [laughs]

A. GRAFF: Even if all I do is pop in and say, "Hi", and then that's it.

G. PEN: Yeah! That'd be great. So thank you so much, and is there more Hamilton in store for the kids or are you done with that era now?

A. GRAFF: Well, I'm done with teaching U.S. History, so I go back to teaching only global history next semester. But don't worry, I'll probably figure out a way to introduce it to the global history kids, and I'll be like, "Oh! We're learning about the French Revolution, let me, let me get 'Cabinet Battle 2'"

G. PEN: Yeah! And King George! King George stuff. He's gotta be global.

A. GRAFF: He's England, that's global!

G. PEN: So we've decided that we're going to have a sign off. Thank you so much for listening to The Hamilcast, episode 2. I am G. Pen.

B. SO: I am B. So.

A. GRAFF: And I am A. Graff.

G. PEN: There we go! Get it you guys? At least we didn't say, "We are your obedient servants. We have the honor to be your obedient servants." So yeah, so next week, homework, the introduction and the first chapter, if you want to read it, if not we'll just be talking about it.

B. SO: We'll just tell you about it!

A. GRAFF: Do it.

G. PEN: Alright, thanks everybody! Bye!

B. SO: Bye!

A. GRAFF: Bye!

G. PEN: Don't forget to follow us on social media @thehamilcast on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and check out my show called The Residuals a comedy about actors doing commercials.

<https://www.thehamilcast.com/episode-2/>

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We now include the Hamilcast Sign off from 2018 to let you know what host Gillian is currently up to.

[Music: Hamilton – The World turned upside down – Instrumentals play]

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