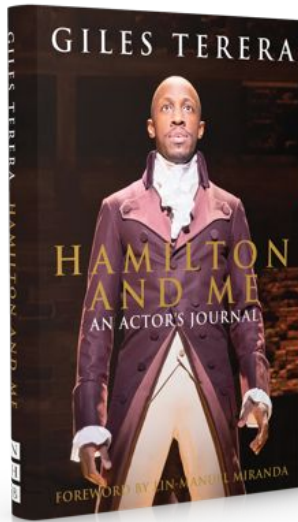


Coming soon from Nick Hern Books...

A unique account of musical phenomenon *Hamilton*, by a star of the London production



Hamilton and Me

An Actor's Journal

by Giles Terera

Foreword by Lin-Manuel Miranda

A fascinating, in-depth account of opening the smash-hit *Hamilton* in London's West End, by the actor who won an Olivier Award for his portrayal of Aaron Burr

**Published 1 July 2021 in hardback, ebook
and audiobook**

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Leading theatre publisher Nick Hern Books is to release *Hamilton and Me: An Actor's Journal* by Giles Terera on 1 July 2021. The book is a personal inside account of the London production of Lin-Manuel Miranda's smash-hit, multi-award-winning *Hamilton*, written by the actor who won the Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his performance as Aaron Burr.

Hamilton and Me is drawn from a journal Terera kept throughout the period of preparation, rehearsal and performance. It offers an honest, intimate and thrilling look at everything involved in opening a once-in-a-generation production – the triumphs, breakthroughs and doubts, the camaraderie of the rehearsal room and the moments of quiet backstage contemplation – as well as a fascinating, in-depth exploration of now-iconic songs and moments from the world-famous musical, as seen from the inside. It is illustrated with dozens of colour photographs, many of which are previously unseen, and features a Foreword by *Hamilton* creator and original star Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Nick Hern Books will publish *Hamilton and Me* in hardback, ebook and audiobook on 1 July 2021, in all territories outside of North America. More information about the book can be found at www.hamiltonandme.com.

Giles Terera said:

'As an actor, I've always kept rehearsal journals. It helps me process what I'm experiencing as well as helping me remember what I'm supposed to be doing. When I was asked to play the part of Aaron Burr in *Hamilton* I knew that it would be both an incredible challenge and an extraordinary journey – one I wanted to learn from as well as enjoy. So, every day, I kept notes on the work and the experience.

'I'm so happy that an experience which has been so life-changing for me might now be of use to students, theatre-makers and anyone who loves *Hamilton* as much I do.'

Lin-Manuel Miranda said:

'This is one of the most joyous and clear-eyed approaches to playing a character that I have ever read. I am so grateful Giles took notes on his process and turned them into this book. I was already in awe of his performance; now I'm in awe of his humanity and attention to detail and willingness to share the hard work and magic that goes into it.'

Matt Applewhite, Managing Director at Nick Hern Books, said:

'It's an honour to be publishing Giles's brilliant personal account of his time in the most extraordinary theatrical phenomenon of our age. His book is joyous and moving, searingly honest, beautifully written, and a delight for anyone interested in a new perspective on this truly groundbreaking show. After a challenging twelve months for theatre, this really is something for us – and for readers – to look forward to!'

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About the book

‘Stand. Breathe. Look. Try to empty my mind. Somehow, for some reason, I have been brought to this place to tell this story, now. So tell it. That’s all.’

When Lin-Manuel Miranda’s groundbreaking musical *Hamilton* opened in London’s West End in December 2017, it was as huge a hit as it had been in its original production off- and on Broadway. Lauded by critics and audiences alike, the show would go on to win a record-equalling seven Olivier Awards – including Best Actor in a Musical for Giles Terera, for his portrayal of Aaron Burr.

For Terera, though, his journey as Burr had begun more than a year earlier, with his first audition in New York, and continuing through extensive research and preparation, intense rehearsals, previews and finally opening night itself. Throughout this time he kept a journal, recording his experiences of the production and his process of creating his award-winning performance. This book, *Hamilton and Me*, is that journal.

It offers an honest, intimate and thrilling look at everything involved in opening a once-in-a-generation production – the triumphs, breakthroughs and doubts, the camaraderie of the rehearsal room and the moments of quiet backstage contemplation – as well as a fascinating, in-depth exploration of now-iconic songs and moments from the musical, as seen from the inside. It is also deeply personal, as Terera reflects on experiences from his own life that he drew on to help shape his acclaimed portrayal.

Illustrated with dozens of colour photographs, many of which are shared here for the first time, and featuring an exclusive Foreword by Lin-Manuel Miranda, this book is an essential read for all fans of *Hamilton* – offering fresh, first-hand insights into the music and characters they love and know so well – as well as for aspiring and current performers, students, and anyone who wants to discover what it really felt like to be in the room where it happened.

About the author



Giles Terera MBE is an award-winning actor, musician and writer.

He trained at Mountview Theatre School and has worked consistently at venues such as the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare’s Globe. He is best known for originating the role of Aaron Burr in the London production of the award-winning musical *Hamilton*, for which he won the 2018 Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical.

His other theatre credits include *Rosmersholm*, *The Tempest*, *Avenue Q*, *The Book of Mormon*, *125th Street*, *Rent* (West End); *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*, *Hamlet*, *Death and the King’s Horseman*, *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Candide*, *Honk!* (National Theatre); *The Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare’s Globe/international tour); *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Donmar Warehouse); *Pure Imagination – The Songs of Lesley Bricusse* (St. James’s); *King John* (Shakespeare’s Globe/UK tour); *Don’t You Leave Me Here* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *The Playboy of the*

Western World (Abbey, Dublin); *The Ratpack* (West End/international tour); *Jailhouse Rock* (Theatre Royal Plymouth/West End); *You Don’t Kiss* (Stratford Circus); *Up on the Roof* (Chichester); *The Tempest* (RSC); *Six Degrees of Separation* (Sheffield); *Generations of the Dead* (Young Vic); *Bill Shakespeare’s Italian Job* (Playbox, Warwick/Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh); *The Demon Headmaster/The Animals of Farthing Wood* (Pleasance, Edinburgh).

As a writer, his theatre work includes *The Meaning of Zong* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Ballad of Soho Jones* (St. James’) and the upcoming *Black Matter*(Crazy Coqs). As a filmmaker, Giles’s first documentary, *Muse of Fire* – created with Dan Poole – centres on modern perspectives of Shakespeare and premiered on BBC Four in Autumn 2013. Giles was an associate producer on Poole’s feature documentary *The Space: Theatre of Survival* and he wrote and directed the concert film *Hello Harry! A Celebration*.

Giles was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2020 New Year Honours for services to theatre.

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Praise for Giles Terera's Aaron Burr

'Giles Terera steals the show with his sphinx-like charisma as Hamilton's nemesis, Aaron Burr' **The i**

'Giles Terera is terrific as Aaron Burr, who narrates this story, anchoring it, managing to hold together the whole exploding maelstrom' **The Times**

'A star-making performance... as the ambitious Burr, Terera has a cool shrewdness. But there are notes of resentment, awkwardness and longing in his performance — Burr's appetite for politics is quickened by a thwarted desire to be, as one second-half song emphasises, in "the room where it happens"' **Evening Standard**

'Giles Terera plays Aaron Burr, Hamilton's friend and fatal foe, in a combined role of both narrator and protagonist; a structural task he lands with the easy authority and perfect timing of Mohammad Ali in his pomp' **BBC News**

'A lithe, even slimey, solitary figure always desperately trying and failing to fit in, Terera grounds Burr's growing resentment beautifully... Terera's Burr has a gnat-like quality, easily swatted away despite his brilliance. Little wonder life grinds him down to bitterness, even something like madness and, as Burr's star falls and his life stalls, Terera's eyes cross in blinkered enmity. You feel for him hugely' **Variety**

'Giles Terera is splendid as Burr, the frenemy and nemesis who is Salieri to Hamilton's Mozart, all silky, privileged containment and disengaged calculation as opposed to his fellow orphan's committed impetuosity' **Independent**

'As Aaron Burr, Giles Terera gives a shiny performance that shows how his character's smoothness becomes his nemesis' **New York Times**

About Nick Hern Books

Nick Hern Books (NHB) is the UK's leading specialist theatre publisher and performing rights agent.

They're home to the best contemporary plays by many of today's most exciting UK and Irish writers – including Mike Bartlett, Chris Bush, Jez Butterworth, Caryl Churchill, debbie tucker green, Ella Hickson, Anna Jordan, Arinzé Kene, Lucy Kirkwood, Conor McPherson, Rona Munro, Jessica Swale, Jack Thorne, Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Enda Walsh – as well as leading American playwrights such as Annie Baker, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Stephen Karam, Tony Kushner, Tracy Letts, David Lindsay-Abaire, Kenneth Lonergan, Suzan Lori-Parks, Lynn Nottage and J. T. Rogers.

They work with major theatres and theatre companies across the UK and in Ireland to publish new plays alongside their professional premieres – often in the form of a 'programme/text' that combines the functions of theatre programme and playtext – and also publish many classic plays and plays in translation. They also license their plays for amateur production, enabling them to be staged by community theatres, schools, colleges, universities and youth-theatre groups around the world.

NHB also publishes practical books by a range of highly renowned and respected practitioners, teachers and performers – including Peter Brook, Gregory Doran, Richard Eyre, Stephen Jeffreys, Jeannette Nelson, Andy Nyman, Antony Sher and Harriet Walter – on topics such as acting, singing, writing, directing and more.

For more information, visit www.nickhernbooks.co.uk.

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