



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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Be in the Room Where it Happens: History Center to Explore the History Behind “Hamilton”

- A special program featuring historian Richard Bell will examine the hit musical’s cultural impact and the real-life history on which it is based -

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 2, 2019 – As “Hamilton”-mania takes over Pittsburgh this month, the Senator John Heinz History Center will host **Hamilton Remix: History Meets Show Biz** on **Thursday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.**

During this special program, visiting historian Richard Bell will dissect Lin-Manuel Miranda’s wildly popular Broadway musical to reveal what its success tells us about the marriage of history and show biz.

Dr. Bell, a tenured professor in the Department of History at the University of Maryland, will showcase what the popular production gets right – and wrong – about Alexander Hamilton, the American Revolution, and the birth of the United States, and why it all matters.

Theater fans and history buffs can examine the creative choices “Hamilton” creators made to simplify, dramatize, and humanize the complicated events and stories on which the musical is based, as well as explore the musical’s cultural impact and what its runaway success reveals.

Admission to **Hamilton Remix: History Meets Show Biz** is \$18 for adults and \$9 for kids 17 and under. Admission includes access to the History Center’s six floors of exhibitions, including the Smithsonian’s **Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission** exhibit. Tickets are available online at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

Please note: This program will include strong language and adult themes. Parental discretion is advised for those with children under the age of 14.

About the Speaker

Dr. Richard Bell received a B.A. from the University of Cambridge in 1999 and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2006. He joined the Department of History at the University of Maryland thereafter and received tenure in 2012. Dr. Bell has held two dozen research fellowships including residencies at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Abolition, and Resistance at Yale University and the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. His work has also been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Bell serves as a Trustee of the Maryland Historical Society, as an elected member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He lives in University Park, Md., with his wife and two daughters.

The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region's remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



On Jan. 10 at 7 p.m., "Hamilton" fans can explore the history behind the hit musical during Hamilton Remix: History Meets Show Biz at the Heinz History Center.



Dr. Richard Bell, a tenured history professor at the University of Maryland, will dissect the musical phenomenon "Hamilton" to reveal what its success tells us about the marriage of history and show biz at the Heinz History Center on Jan. 10.