

On the day of the show the anticipation was electric. When our TY year arrived at the Bord Gais there were already crowds from other schools forming around the theatre. We took a quick photo in front of the 'HAMILTON' billboard, grabbed our tickets and ran into the building. Popcorn and jellies were bought quickly and seats were soon occupied.

Our seats were in the elevated circle so we had a great view of the full stage and after a few minutes the show began, starting off with the title track "Alexander Hamilton" which tells the story of Hamilton before coming to New York and the challenges he faced, as well as foreshadowing how he would meet his end. The choreography really makes 'Hamilton' and you can clearly see it from the start.

By the interval everyone was invested and the mix of beautiful songs, intense choreography and stunning set design had the entire theatre on the edge of their seats. Some highlights were "You'll be Back" sang by King George, "10 Dual Commandments" and "The Room Where it Happened".

At the end of the musical the applause was deafening but the cast of 'Hamilton' had one more surprise for us. The actresses of the Schuyler sisters came back on stage and told us that we were lucky enough to see something that no other audience had seen, a behind-the-scenes of how 'Hamilton' works!

We were shown how the lighting and the speakers (over 1000) were controlled, how much work it takes to move the 60 ton stage in 3 days, when understudies are used, and even a demonstration of how to do a quick costume change from battle gear to a ball gown in under 30 seconds.

The show finished at 4:30 and the bus ride home was full of singing and chatting about the great day we had!

By Sophie Dwan, TY