



FEATURED ARTICLES



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."

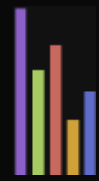
BE PREPARED TO LAUGH, GASP & CRY.
Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.
[Click here to read more...](#)



ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE
Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry
[Click here to read more...](#)

Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.
[Click here to read more...](#)

FUN FEATURES



Have you ever been in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan?

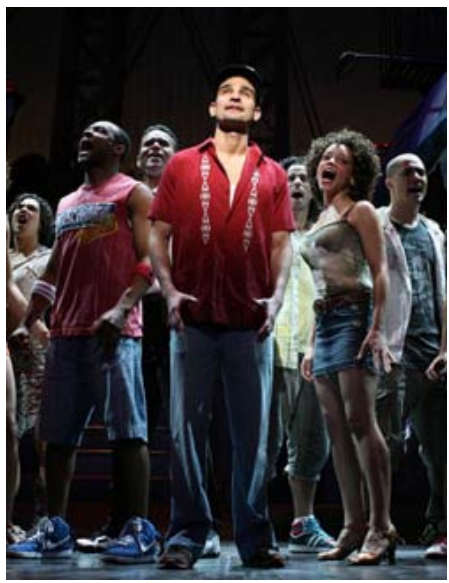
Yes
No

[ITH NEWS from the Road](#)
[Upload your In The Heights Photos](#)
[Become a Fan of ITH on Facebook](#)
[Follow ITH on Twitter](#)

ALL ARTICLES

SPOTLIGHT

PLAYHOUSE SQUARE WELCOMES IN THE HEIGHTS



Javier Munoz (center) and Cast

PlayhouseSquare bids bienvenido (welcome) to *IN THE HEIGHTS* February 9 – 21, 2010 as part of the KeyBank Broadway Series. Nominated for 13 and winner of four Tony Awards, including Best Musical of 2008, *IN THE HEIGHTS* is, according to Jeremy McCarter of *New York Magazine*, "a groundbreaking 21st century musical. This extraordinary blend of old and new pushes the sound of Broadway even deeper into fresh territory. It is one of the most satisfying musicals in years." *IN THE HEIGHTS* was also presented with 2 Outer Critics Circle awards, 2 Lucille Lortel awards, an OBIE award, 2 Drama Desk awards, a Grammy, a Theatre World award, a Clarence Derwent award and nominated for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

[Read More...](#)

SPONSORED BY



Buzz Extra is a publication of the Community Engagement & Education Department at PlayhouseSquare

Vice President of Theatricals:
Gina Vernaci
Director of Community Engagement & Education:
Colleen Porter
Director of Ticket Sales & Marketing:
Autumn Kiser
Editors:
Linda Jackson, Cindi Szymanski
Writer:
Robin Pease

[Home](#)

[PlayhouseSquare Welcomes
In The Heights](#)

[Washington Heights](#)

[Washington Heights en espanol](#)

[How Much Spanish Do You Know](#)

[Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#)

[Your Questions Answered](#)

[Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events](#)

[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)

Photos:
Joan Marcus

PRINTABLE VERSION:



Download and read the printable version of the Buzz (535Kb in PDF format) [here](#)

BROADWAY BUZZ ARCHIVE:



[Young Frankenstein](#)
[Chicago](#)

FEEDBACK:



We welcome your feedback and suggestions for the Buzz Extra. Please email ArtsEducation@PlayhouseSquare.org



Ohio Arts Council





FEATURED ARTICLES



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."

BE PREPARED TO LAUGH, GASP & CRY.

Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.

[Click here to read more...](#)



ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

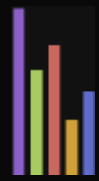
Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry

[Click here to read more...](#)

Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.

[Click here to read more...](#)

FUN FEATURES



Have you ever been in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan?

Yes
No

ITH NEWS from the Road
[Upload your In The Heights Photos](#)
[Become a Fan of ITH on Facebook](#)
[Follow ITH on Twitter](#)

ALL ARTICLES

PlayhouseSquare Welcomes IN THE HEIGHTS



Javier Munoz (center) and Cast

PlayhouseSquare bids *bienvenido* (welcome) to *IN THE HEIGHTS* February 9 – 21, 2010 as part of the KeyBank Broadway Series. Nominated for 13 and winner of four Tony Awards, including Best Musical of 2008, *IN THE HEIGHTS* is, according to Jeremy McCarter of *New York Magazine*, "a groundbreaking 21st century musical. This extraordinary blend of old and new pushes the sound of Broadway even deeper into fresh territory. It is one of the most satisfying musicals in years." *IN THE HEIGHTS* was also presented with 2 Outer Critics Circle awards, 2 Lucille Lortel awards, an OBIE award, 2 Drama Desk awards, a Grammy, a Theatre World award, a Clarence Derwent award and nominated for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

David Richardson of *WOR Radio* sings, "If you have any rhythm in your heart, you shouldn't miss it."

"A delicious score, dynamite dancing and a good-hearted story fuse into exuberant entertainment. There's simply no resisting," succumbs Michael Sommers of *The Star Ledger*.

USA Today's Elysa Gardener declares, "I dare you to resist the endearing characters."

Synopsis

Charles Isherwood of *The New York Times* describes, "this musical is about chasing your dreams and finding your true home."

Right near the George Washington Bridge in the [Washington Heights](#) neighborhood of New York City is a bodega, a store, where everyone in the area goes to get coffee, supplies, or just talk with friends. It is a diverse neighborhood of Puerto Ricans, Cubans, African Americans, and Dominicans who share their hopes, fears, and dreams at the bodega. Meet the people who live *IN THE HEIGHTS*. Usnavi, the owner, dreams of returning to the [Dominican Republic](#). Vanessa hopes to move to a better neighborhood, as she is often in the dark, since her mother does not pay the electric bill. Benny wants to own his own business. Nina is a struggling college student whose parents need to find the money for her tuition. Everything happens in Washington Heights as Abuela Claudia uses the bodega as her escuela, or school, to share the

[Home](#)

[PlayhouseSquare Welcomes
In The Heights](#)

[Washington Heights](#)

[Washington Heights en espanol](#)

[How Much Spanish Do You Know](#)

[Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#)

[Your Questions Answered](#)

[Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events](#)

[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)

wisdom she learned while [emigrating from Cuba](#) so long ago. Everyone has a story as IN THE HEIGHTS is told to the beat of [hip-hop, salsa, soul music and the merengue](#). Their stories become our stories as we all try to reach our dreams.

Did you know...

Lin-Manuel Miranda conceived IN THE HEIGHTS while in his sophomore year at [Wesleyan University](#). "My high school sweetheart was going abroad to study in the Dominican Republic," Miranda said, "and I was very conflicted about it. We'd been together for about four years, and this was my first time on my own. I started writing IN THE HEIGHTS the day after she left, and finished it two weeks later. It was all about the angst I had over the relationship." The show was a huge success at Wesleyan.

Then, Wesleyan seniors Neil Stewart and John Mailer planned to start a theater company and bring IN THE HEIGHTS to New York. One week after graduation, Miranda met with them about transforming his college musical. Five plots later and sixty songs cut, the show opened off-Broadway in 2007 to critical raves. More rewrites and revisions brought the show to Broadway and the Tony Award for best musical of 2008.

For more information on Lin-Manuel Miranda, [click here](#).



FEATURED ARTICLES



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."

BE PREPARED TO LAUGH, GASP & CRY.

Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.

[Click here to read more...](#)



Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.

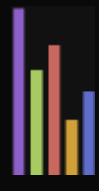
[Click here to read more...](#)

ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry

[Click here to read more...](#)

FUN FEATURES



Have you ever been in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan?

- Yes
- No

ITH NEWS from the Road
 Upload your In The Heights Photos
 Become a Fan of ITH on Facebook
 Follow ITH on Twitter

ALL ARTICLES

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

According to legend, [Native Americans](#) sold Manhattan Island to the Dutch in the 1600s for approximately \$24 worth of goods. Legend claims this happened in today's Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. Immigrants have been living in the Heights ever since.

Historical celebrities have been a part of Washington Heights since the Revolutionary War when George Washington took the [house of British colonel Roger Morris](#) for his headquarters. British-American Vice President [Aaron Burr was married in the very same house](#). Frenchman [John James Audubon](#), the naturalist, had a riverfront estate in the Heights.

Early 20th century immigrants were Irish and Greek-Americans. During the 1930s and 1940s, African Americans and Jews fleeing Nazi Germany came to different areas of the Heights to live.

Then in the 1950s, Puerto Ricans and Cubans discovered the Heights, with Dominicans following in the 1980s. The 1990s brought Russian Jews and Columbians to the Heights. The 2000s found Mexicans and Ecuadorians arriving in the Heights.

The show has many diverse characters that share their thoughts of immigration and their new home in America.

The Lyrics of IN THE HEIGHTS

"Fresh off the boat in America
 Freezing in early December
 A crowded city in 1943
 Learning the ropes in America
 En espanol I remember
 Dancing with Mayor LaGuardia
 All of society welcoming Mami and me! Ha!"

"I came from miles away
 My family came from miles away
 My father was a farmer,
 His father was a farmer,



Justina Machado and Janet Dacal

[Home](#)

[PlayhouseSquare Welcomes
In The Heights](#)

[Washington Heights](#)

[Washington Heights en espanol](#)

[How Much Spanish Do You Know](#)

[Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#)

[Your Questions Answered](#)

[Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events](#)

[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)

But I told him,
'Papi, I'm sorry, I'm going farther.
I'm getting on a plane
And I'm gonna change the world someday."

"Ay, Mama, so many stars in Cuba
En Nueva York we can't see beyond our streetlights."

"My mom is Dominican-Cuban
My dad is from Chile and P.R.,
Which means:
I'm Chile-Domini-curican!
But I always say I'm from Queens!"

"When I was younger I'd imagine what would happen if my parents had stayed in
Puerto Rico
Who would I be if I had never seen Manhattan?"

"We came to work and to live and we got a lot in common
It reminds me that I came from miles away
DR, PR, we are not stoppin'
In the heights."

"From Puerto Rico to Santo Domingo
Wherever we go
We rep our people and the beat..."

"Where people come
People go
Let me show all of these people what I know
There's no place like home!
We're home!"

"Y cuando yo me muera
Entierrame en mi tierra!
Del barrio."

"Alza la bandera
La bandera Dominicana
La bandera Puertorriquena
La bandera Mejicana
Adios, adios, adios
We're home!"

Diversity
E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."
America, and Washington Heights, is a place made up of people who themselves, or
their ancestors, have come from all over the world.

Famous Residents Who Have Made the Heights Their Home:

African-American Musicians: [Count Basie](#), and [Duke Ellington](#); African-American
Actors: [Paul Robeson](#), [Leslie Uggams](#), and [Laurence Fishburne](#); Puerto Rican-
Hungarian-American Comedian: [Freddie Prinze](#); and Greek-American Opera Singer:
[Maria Callas](#).

German-born American Therapist: [Dr. Ruth Westheimer](#); German-Polish-American
Economist: [Alan Greenspan](#); German-born American Nobel Peace Prize recipient: [Dr.
Henry Kissinger](#); and African-American New York City mayor: [David Dinkins](#).

Irish-American Sports Broadcaster: [Vin Scully](#); African-American Boxer: [Joe Louis](#);
Baseball Players: German-American [Lou Gehrig](#), Panamanian-American [Rod Carew](#),
Dominican-Americans [Manny Ramirez](#), and [Alex Rodriguez](#); and Dominican-American
NBA player: [Luis Flores](#).

Romanian-American Spider Man Creator: [Stan Lee](#) and Puerto Rican-American [Lin-
Manuel Miranda](#), creator/composer/star of IN THE HEIGHTS are just a few of the
people who have called the Heights home.

Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.

For more information on Washington Heights, [click here](#).

Quotes are lyrics from the show IN THE HEIGHTS.

For more lyrics, [click here](#).



FEATURED ARTICLES



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."

BE PREPARED TO LAUGH, GASP & CRY.

Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.

[Click here to read more...](#)



ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

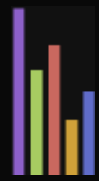
Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry

[Click here to read more...](#)

Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.

[Click here to read more...](#)

FUN FEATURES



Have you ever been in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan?

- Yes
- No

- [ITH NEWS from the Road](#)
- [Upload your In The Heights Photos](#)
- [Become a Fan of ITH on Facebook](#)
- [Follow ITH on Twitter](#)

ALL ARTICLES

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS en Español

Según la leyenda, los **natives americanos** vendieron la isla de Manhattan a los neerlandeses en el año 1600 por mercancías que valió aproximadamente \$24. Según la leyenda, esto ocurrió alrededor del barrio de Washington Heights que es una zona de Manhattan. Los inmigrantes han estado viviendo en the Heights desde entonces.



Justina Machado y Janet Dacal

Personas famosas y históricas han sido parte de Washington Heights desde la Guerra Revolucionaria, cuando George Washington tomó **la propiedad de coronel británico Roger Morris** por hacerla su centro de dirección. El vicepresidente inglés-americano, **Aaron Burr**, se casó en la misma casa. El naturalista francés, **John James Audubon**, tenía una finca en la orilla del río en the Heights.

Los primeros inmigrantes del siglo veinte eran irlandeses y griegos americanos. Durante los años de 1930 hasta 1940, los afro-americanos y los Judios que huyeron de la Alemania Nazi llegaron a las diferentes áreas de the Heights para hacer sus hogares.

Luego, en la década de 1950, puertorriqueños y cubanos descubrieron the Heights. Los dominicanos vinieron siguiente en la década de 1980. En la década de 1990, los Judios de Rusia y los colombianos vinieron a the Heights. En el año 2000, entraron mexicanos y ecuatorianos.

El espectáculo, IN THE HEIGHTS, tiene muchos personajes diferentes que comparten sus pensamientos de la inmigración y de su nuevo hogar en los Estados Unidos.

Las palabras de las canciones de IN THE HEIGHTS

“Acaba de salir del barco en America
 Congelando en el principio de diciembre
 Una ciudad lleno de gente en 1943
 Aprendiendo lo necesario en America
 En español yo recuerdo
 Bailando con el alcalde LaGuardia
 La sociedad entera nos da bienvenidos a mamá y yo! Ha!”

“Vine de muy lejos

[Home](#)

[PlayhouseSquare Welcomes
In The Heights](#)

[Washington Heights](#)

[Washington Heights en español](#)

[How Much Spanish Do You Know](#)

[Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#)

[Your Questions Answered](#)

[Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events](#)

[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)

Mi familia vinieron de muy lejos
Mi papá era un agricultor,
Su papá era un agricultor,
Pero yo le dije,
‘Papá, lo siento. Yo voy a hacer más.
Voy a subir en un avion
Y algún día, voy a cambiar el mundo.’”

“Ay mamá, hay tantas estrellas en Cuba
En Nueva York, no podemos ver mas adelante que los luces de la calle.”
“Mi mamá es dominicana-cubana
Mi papá es de Chile y Puerto Rico.
Eso significa que
Yo soy Chile-Domini-curican!
Pero siempre digo que soy de Queens!”

“Cuando yo era mas joven, imaginaría que pasaría si mis padres se quedaran en
Puerto Rico
¿Quién sería si nunca hubiera visto Manhattan?”

“Vinimos para trabajar y vivir y tenemos mucho en común
Me recuerda que vine de lejos
DR, PR, no paramos
En the Heights.”

“De Puerto Rico a Santo Domingo
Dondequiera que vamos
Representamos nuestra gente y el toque...”

“Donde viene la gente
Sale la gente
Déjame mostrar lo que yo sé a todo el mundo
No hay un lugar que sea como mi hogar!
Estamos en casa!”

“Y cuando yo me muera
Entierrame en mi tierra!
Del barrio.”

“Alza la bandera
La bandera Dominicana
La bandera Puertorriquena
La bandera Mejicana
Adios, adios, adios
Estamos en casa!”

Diversidad

E Pluribus Unum es uno de las divisas de Los Estados Unidos. Significa ‘de muchos, uno.’ Los Estados Unidos, y Washington Heights, son lugares que están hechos de gente que vinieron de todo el mundo. La gente, o sus antecesores, fueron inmigrantes.

Una lista de residents famosos que han vivido en Washington Heights:

Los músicos afro-americanos [Count Basie](#) y [Duke Ellington](#); los actores afro-americanos [Paul Robeson](#), [Leslie Uggams](#), y [Laurence Fishbourne](#); el cómico puertorriqueño-alemán-americano [Freddie Prinze](#); y la cantante de ópera, griega-estadounidense [María Callas](#).

La terapeuta alemán-americana Doctora [Ruth Westheimer](#); el economista alemán-polaco-estadounidense [Alan Greenspan](#); el ganador del Premio Nobel de la Paz, un alemán-americano quien nació en alemania, [Doctor Henry Kissinger](#); y el alcalde afro-americano de la ciudad de Nueva York, [David Dinkins](#).

El anunciador de deportes irlandés-estadounidense [Vin Scully](#); el boxeador afro-americano [Joe Louis](#); los jugadores de béisbol: el alemán-estadounidense [Lou Gehrig](#), el panameño-americano [Rod Carew](#), los dominicano-americanos [Manny Ramirez](#) y [Alex Rodriguez](#); el jugador dominicano-americano de la NBA, [Luis Flores](#).

El creador rumano-americano del Hombre de Araña [Stan Lee](#); y el puertorriqueño-

americano [Lin-Manuel Miranda](#), creador, compositor y protagonista de In the Heights. En esta lista, solo mencionamos algunas de las personalidades famosas que han vivido en Washington Heights.

Washington Heights es verdaderamente E Pluribus Unum.

Para más información de Washington Heights:
<http://www.washington-heights.us/history/>

Las citas son de las canciones de IN THE HEIGHTS.

Para más información de las canciones de IN THE HEIGHTS: <http://www.allmusicals.com/lyrics/intheheights/intheheights.htm>



FEATURED ARTICLES



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."

BE PREPARED TO LAUGH, GASP & CRY.

Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.

[Click here to read more...](#)



ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

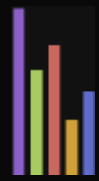
Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry

[Click here to read more...](#)

Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.

[Click here to read more...](#)

FUN FEATURES



Have you ever been in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan?

Yes

No

ITH NEWS from the Road
 Upload your In The Heights Photos
 Become a Fan of ITH on Facebook
 Follow ITH on Twitter

ALL ARTICLES

HOW MUCH SPANISH DO YOU KNOW?



Rick Négron and Priscilla Lopez

IN THE HEIGHTS takes place in a diverse Latino neighborhood in New York City. The song lyrics and dialogue are peppered with Spanish words and phrases, but you don't have to be bilingual to understand the show.

According to IN THE HEIGHTS creator/composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, "the overwhelming majority of people who come to see our show – don't speak a word of Spanish. And they come away loving it. They understand it. We've taken great care to make sure you get everything in context. We sneak in Spanish little by little at the top of the show, and by the end, we're giving whole dollops of it. People are with it, they're nodding their heads. We've tried to use Spanish in the way that Jerome Robbins used dance: when we get to a point where English won't suffice, we break into Spanish."

See how many of these Spanish words and phrases you can match to their meanings in English.

- | SPANISH | ENGLISH |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Café con leche | a. Singing |
| 2. Caliente | b. How are you? |
| 3. ¿Como estas? | c. Question |
| 4. Para siempre | d. Good |
| 5. Atención | e. Beach |
| 6. Paciencia y fe | f. Grandmother |
| 7. Plaza | g. Neighborhood |

[Home](#)

[PlayhouseSquare Welcomes
In The Heights](#)

[Washington Heights](#)

[Washington Heights en español](#)

[How Much Spanish Do You Know](#)

[Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#)

[Your Questions Answered](#)

[Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events](#)

[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 8. Un momento, por favor | h. It's hot |
| 9. Machismo | i. Coffee with milk |
| 10. ¿Que paso? | j. Patience and faith |
| 11. Inútil | k. Kiss me |
| 12. Bueno | l. My love |
| 13. Rodeo | m. Masculinity |
| 14. Pregunta | n. Don't tell me that |
| 15. No me diga | o. One minute, please |
| 16. Que calor | p. Public square or marketplace |
| 17. Salud | q. Flavored ice, similar to a snow cone
but shaped like a pyramid |
| 18. Mi amor | r. Raise something to God's face and
sing praise to it |
| 19. Besame | s. Hot |
| 20. Ayudame | t. What's happening? |
| 21. Alabanza | u. Useless |
| 22. Cantando | v. For always |
| 23. Barrio | w. Help me |
| 24. Playa | x. Roundup |
| 25. Abuela | y. Attention |
| 26. Piragua | z. Health |

Quiz Answers:

1 – i, 2 – s, 3 – b, 4 – v, 5 – y, 6 – j, 7 – p, 8 – o, 9 – m, 10 – t, 11 – u, 12 – d, 13 – x, 14 – c, 15 – n, 16 – h, 17 – z, 18 – l, 19 – k, 20 – w, 21 – r, 22 – a, 23 – g, 24 – e, 25 – f, 26 – q

Did You Know...

Not all Spanish-speaking people speak the same Spanish. Pronunciation, meanings, phrases and words can vary depending on where the person is from. Spanish from Spain may be slightly different from Mexican Spanish or Puerto Rican Spanish or Cuban Spanish.

[Click here](#) and learn to speak some Spanish.



FEATURED ARTICLES



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."

BE PREPARED TO LAUGH, GASP & CRY.

Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.

[Click here to read more...](#)



ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

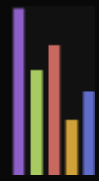
Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry

[Click here to read more...](#)

Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.

[Click here to read more...](#)

FUN FEATURES



Have you ever been in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan?

Yes
No

ITH NEWS from the Road
[Upload your In The Heights Photos](#)
[Become a Fan of ITH on Facebook](#)
[Follow ITH on Twitter](#)

ALL ARTICLES

TALKING WITH ROGELIO DOUGLAS, JR.



The Cast

BUZZ EXTRA spoke with [Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#), who stars as Benny in the national tour of IN THE HEIGHTS.

Mr. Douglas began his love of music and dance at 8 years old in New York City. Inspired by salsa, merengue and hip-hop, it seems like Rogelio was destined be IN THE HEIGHTS.

Rogelio has worked in Chicago, tapped danced through Europe and Asia, and sung "Under the Sea" until IN THE HEIGHTS cast him as Benny.

EXTRA: How's the tour going?

DOUGLAS: Good...we're trying to stay warm in Appleton, Wisconsin, single digits, 29 miles per hour gusts of wind.

EXTRA: You toured with [Riverdance](#), right?

DOUGLAS: Yes. I stopped because I hurt my ankle. I got a sprain in London then it got worse. I had a few ligaments torn and when I got it checked out, they said I might not be able to use my ankle ever again in dancing. It took me three years to recover from it. I completely stopped auditioning. I gained a lot of weight. One day, about two and half years ago, with a few friends of mine, we put in \$500 each and winner takes all... nothing like male testosterone to get you motivated to do something...and I ended up losing 41 pounds in 2 months. I did it naturally with a trainer, eating right, and I was working out 5-6 days a week, taking some dance classes. Suddenly I found my love again for dance, my ankle was starting to heal. I realized, if I took it one day at a time, anything I wanted to do eventually would happen. My dream was to be a principal on Broadway. I went to an open call. I didn't have an agent at the time and I was picked by [choreographer] [Andy Blankenbuehler](#) for the show. I always tell people, don't give up on your dreams. Every day, take steps to achieve your goal and feel that you can do it.

[Home](#)

[PlayhouseSquare Welcomes
In The Heights](#)

[Washington Heights](#)

[Washington Heights en espanol](#)

[How Much Spanish Do You Know](#)

[Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#)

[Your Questions Answered](#)

[Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events](#)

[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)

EXTRA: And how is the tour being received?

DOUGLAS: It's amazing how people are relating to the story. For some, it is their first experience with New York. Usually people see it via television, film, or a music video, but they don't *really* experience New York and so, we're their first encounter with that.

EXTRA: What would you say the show is about?

DOUGLAS: If you're in a small town or a big city, you can relate to the characters because the show's universal themes are about community, hope, love, and heart.

EXTRA: IN THE HEIGHTS is told in both Spanish and English. Are you fluent in Spanish?

DOUGLAS: Spanish was my first language as a child. I'm not as fluent as I used to be, but I can have a conversation.

EXTRA: Are most of the cast able to have conversations in Spanish?

DOUGLAS: [Arielle Jacobs](#) who plays Nina, came up this great idea, we call it "Spanish Sundays." So on every Sunday, everyone has to speak Spanish.

EXTRA: Growing up in New York did you ever visit the "Heights?"

DOUGLAS: As a kid, I just called Washington Heights "uptown." [Lin](#) (creator/composer of the show), actually had a birthday party up there. I was part of the original Broadway cast and a week before they were starting rehearsals, he invited me to his birthday party in the [Audubon Ballroom](#). I got to meet the cast and all the different people who were a part of the show. The show is really about family and it starts with Lin, just the kind of man he is. I relate to that, "come on in, open arms." From the moment you meet us, that's just how we are and it's great.

EXTRA: As part of the original Broadway cast what was your role?

DOUGLAS: I was an offstage understudy and swing. Basically I covered six of the male ensemble dance roles and Benny. Nine months into the run, I finally got my chance to get on as Benny and I happened to get discovered by Disney. They asked me to audition for the role of [Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*](#) and I went from being an offstage understudy to being a principal in my next Broadway show!

EXTRA: What lies ahead for you?

DOUGLAS: Who knows what the future holds. I've been very blessed to be a part of this show and I just cherish all the moments.

EXTRA: Anything else Cleveland audiences should know?

DOUGLAS: Come out for the show and be transported to New York. Be prepared to laugh, gasp and cry. It's an amazing journey.

For more information on Rogelio Douglas Jr., [click here](#).



FEATURED ARTICLES



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."

BE PREPARED TO LAUGH, GASP & CRY.

Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.
Click here to read more...

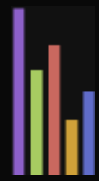


ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry
Click here to read more...

Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.
Click here to read more...

FUN FEATURES



Have you ever been in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan?

Yes
No

ITH NEWS from the Road
Upload your In The Heights Photos
Become a Fan of ITH on Facebook
Follow ITH on Twitter

ALL ARTICLES

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

As promised during the *Chicago* Pre-Show Talks, we are going to start answering a few of YOUR questions in each issue of the Buzz Extra! So please be sure to hand them in at the Pre-Show Talks, or email them to artseducation@playhousesquare.org.

Q: Joe is often asked for recommendations of what shows to see when traveling to New York.

Joe answers: I'm happy to discuss your personal tastes and expectations in a show so we could tailor make your Big Apple Experience, but the general answer I always give is *Billy Elliot*. It has everything...Elton John's brilliant score...breathtaking choreography and a touching story about a boy chasing his dream. It is a master work.

Did you miss the post-show chat with the cast on Thursday, January 21? Six cast members came out to chat with the audience, including both female leads. One amazing fact we learned – Brenda Braxton, who plays Velma Kelly, is still high-kicking at 53 years young.



[Home](#)

[PlayhouseSquare Welcomes
In The Heights](#)

[Washington Heights](#)

[Washington Heights en espanol](#)

[How Much Spanish Do You Know](#)

[Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#)

[Your Questions Answered](#)

[Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events](#)

[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)



FEATURED ARTICLES



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

E Pluribus Unum is one of the mottos of America. It means "out of many, one."

BE PREPARED TO LAUGH, GASP & CRY.

Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.

[Click here to read more...](#)



ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

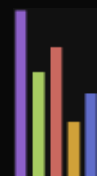
Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry

[Click here to read more...](#)

Washington Heights is indeed E Pluribus Unum.

[Click here to read more...](#)

FUN FEATURES



Have you ever been in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan?

- Yes
- No

ITH NEWS from the Road
 Upload your In The Heights Photos
 Become a Fan of ITH on Facebook
 Follow ITH on Twitter

ALL ARTICLES

ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

Want to find out even more about the show? Come get "buzzed" with host Joe Garry at the Broadway Buzz Pre-Show Talk! Join us one hour before the curtain of each performance of IN THE HEIGHTS in the Idea Center® at PlayhouseSquare.



The Idea Center is located just two doors west of the Allen Theatre at 1375 Euclid Avenue. You can enter the Idea Center quickly from the PlayhouseSquare parking garage by taking the elevator or stairs to Level 1. Exit through the red doors and cross at the crosswalk which will lead you directly into the rear entrance of the building. You also may enter the Idea Center from Euclid Avenue.

Catch our Post-Show Chats with the Cast following Thursday evening performances (11th and 18th).

Cast members from IN THE HEIGHTS will lead a master class on Wednesday, February 17 from 3-4:30 pm. Ages 14 and up only, please. To find out more about the master class, please visit playhousesquare.org/broadwaybuzz.

There is no charge for admission to Broadway Buzz events. Reservations for the master class are required; please call 216-771-4444 x3258 or email reeds@playhousesquare.org.

Broadway Buzz programs and the Buzz Extra online newsletter are made possible by the generosity of individual and corporate donors, foundations and sponsors.

[Home](#)

[PlayhouseSquare Welcomes
In The Heights](#)

[Washington Heights](#)

[Washington Heights en español](#)

[How Much Spanish Do You Know](#)

[Talking with Rogelio Douglas, Jr.](#)

[Your Questions Answered](#)

[Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events](#)

[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)

- catalog •
- my account •
- eMedia •
- new releases •
- teens •
- seniors •
- about us
- do research
- locations & hours
- subject departments
- services
- CLEVNET



[Home](#) » [Literature](#)

Playhouse Square Book Lists

- [In The Heights: A New Musical \(February 9-21, 2010\)](#)
- [Chicago \(January 12-24, 2010\)](#)
- [Young Frankenstein \(October 13-25, 2009\)](#)
- [Mary Poppins \(July 17-August 9, 2009\)](#)
- [An Evening With Patti LuPone & Mandy Patinkin \(May 5-17, 2009\)](#)
- [Spring Awakening \(March 3-15, 2009\)](#)
- [Frost/Nixon \(January 13-25, 2009\)](#)
- [Radio City Christmas Spectacular \(December 4-28, 2008\)](#)
- [Legally Blonde \(November 11-23, 2008\)](#)
- [A Chorus Line. The Best Musical. Ever. \(October 14-26, 2008\)](#)
- [Jersey Boys: The Story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons \(June 17-July 20, 2008\)](#)
- [The 25th annual Putnam County Spelling Bee \(May 6 - May 18, 2008\)](#)
- [Color Purple \(March 26 - April 13, 2008\)](#)
- [Wicked \(Feb. 6 - March 9, 2008\)](#)
- [Avenue Q \(January 15 - 27, 2008\)](#)
- [Twelve Angry Men \(November 27-December 9, 2007\)](#)
- [The Drowsy Chaperone \(October 16-28, 2007\)](#)
- [Dirty Rotten Scoundrels \(June 12-24, 2007\)](#)
- [All Shook Up \(April 10-22, 2007\)](#)
- [Legends! \(March 20-April 1, 2007\)](#)
- [Chita Rivera \(February 13-25, 2007\)](#)
- [The Nutcracker \(December 6-10, 2006\)](#)
- [Spamalot \(October 3-15, 2006\)](#)
- [Wicked \(June 21-July 9, 2006\)](#)
- [Little Women \(May 9-21, 2006\)](#)
- [Dr. Dolittle \(April 18-30, 2006\)](#)
- [Bombay Dreams \(March 21-April 2, 2006\)](#)
- [Evita \(January 10-22, 2006\)](#)
- [Little Shop of Horrors \(Nov. 8-20, 2005\)](#)

Bookmark/Search this post with:

[Delicious](#) [Digg](#) [Google](#) [Yahoo](#) [Technorati](#)

[Printer-friendly version](#)

