

Black trans Hamilton actor who says they were fired after requesting gender neutral changing room

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Black trans Hamilton actor who performed on Broadway files equality complaint against show over claims producers FIRED them from LA production for requesting gender neutral dressing room

- **Former Hamilton cast member Suni Reid has filed a lawsuit against the production after the company decided not to renew their contract**
- **Reid, who uses they/them pronouns, alleges they were harassed and picked-on for requesting the gender-neutral dressing room fired**
- **They added that they were ousted after requesting the space in June this year**
- **The suit claims 'certain actors physically threatened or intentionally and repeatedly mis-gendered' Reid, who was open about being transgender**
- **Reid claims they raised concerns about the mistreatment on several occasions, but 'no help was forthcoming'**
- **One of the stars of the show even offered to give up his dressing room for Reid, the lawsuit claims, but Reid had already been ousted**
- **They joined the Hamilton cast back in 2017 as an ensemble member and has since understudied for numerous lead roles**

By [Natasha Anderson For Dailymail.Com](#)

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A [transgender](#) actor blasted hit show Hamilton over claims producers fired them for requesting a gender-neutral dressing room at an [LA](#) production of the musical.

Suni Reid, who uses they/them pronouns, filed a complaint with [California's](#) Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Wednesday after claiming they'd been dismissed over the request in June this year.

Their complaint alleges that the Eliza Tour, which is the name of Hamilton's Los Angeles production, offered to cordon or curtain-off an area of the main dressing room, and that they were removed from the cast list on saying such an arrangement was unsuitable.

Reid - whose complaint is a precursor to a lawsuit, and who uses the gender-neutral title Mx., - says they were 'retaliated against after making what would be considered a 'legally protected request'.

'Unfortunately, during Mx. Reid's years with the show, which purports to be an icon of diversity, they have experienced frequent incidents of discrimination and harassment from cast members and management of Hamilton based upon their race, sexual orientation/LGBTQ+ status, gender, and gender identity,' the complaint alleges.

'Although the vast majority of fellow cast and crew are wonderful colleagues, the Company failed to act when certain actors physically threatened or intentionally and repeatedly misgendered Mx. Reid, who was open about being transgender/non-binary.'

Reid claims they raised concerns about the mistreatment on several occasions, but 'no help was forthcoming'.

According to the complaint, Reid faced mocking and other forms of aggressive harassment since they joined the Hamilton cast in Broadway in October 2017.

They allege that cast and crew members treated them differently from their initial hiring, citing that instead of providing them with a warm welcome, the stage manager said: 'Your role is cuttable, we can do the show without you.'

The complaint states that Reid was told to 'tone done' their performance on stage and that they - portraying the male ensemble character Man Six - were presenting as 'too gay'. They claim fellow cast members also referred to them as Miss Six in an effort to mock their alleged lack of masculinity.

The suit outlines multiple pages of examples of alleged harassment that occurred before Reid joined the Chicago cast in March 2019.

They claim the harassment escalated in Chicago, citing an incident as early as their second show in the city. They claim actor Akron Watson, who portrayed Aaron Burr, came up to them and said 'I will beat your a**,' before walking away. Reid allegedly reported the incident, prompting a mediation.

Later that year, while still with the Chicago cast, Reid came out as transgender and gender-nonconforming. The complaint says several of their colleagues 'appeared to take pleasure in or disregard the significance of misgendering Mx. Reid, at times in a pointedly hostile or callous manner.'

In June 2020, Reid joined the Board of Broadway for Racial Justice to help combat issues of racial inequity and injustice in the workplace. By March 2021, they were publicly discussing the alleged incidents of harassment on Instagram.

During contract renewal negotiations this past May or June, Reid requested that a gender-neutral dressing room, 'appropriate for their gender identity and required by law,' be set up by the Company at the Pantages Theater in Hollywood.

The court document states that in July Reid learned Tony-nominated actor Rory O'Malley, who plays King George in the show, had 'generously offered' up his private dressing room for the requested facility.

It is alleged that 'multiple other actors expressed interest' in a gender-neutral space and stated that they would have used it.

According to Reid, Adventureland LLC — the company that handles contractual negotiations for musical's Eliza Tour — refused an 'adequate solution' to their dressing room request and instead offered to section off a portion of the existing dressing room with a sheet or curtain.

They argue that management then began 'looking for reasons to cut off its relationship' with the actor and suspended contract negotiations, despite the fact that an agreement had been met regarding role and compensation.

'Hamilton's management openly showed their retaliatory animus against Mx. Reid by citing 'problematic' social media posts as the supposed reason for the hold-up, despite the fact that these posts (which raised issues of racial equity and discrimination) had been known to the Company for months before Mx. Reid's contract discussions started up again,' the complaint alleged.

Reid retained a lawyer in late July after being 'faced with the imminent loss of their place in the cast' and proceeded to inform the production company of the legal claims of discrimination and retaliation.

They were officially informed that Hamilton would not be renewing their contact in September.

The production began its Los Angeles performances on August 17.

A spokesperson for Hamilton has denied the allegations, issuing a statement to DailyMail.com that reads: 'Sunni Reid was a valued cast member for more than three years. We offered them a contract to return to Hamilton with terms responsive to their requests. We deny the allegations in the Charge.

'We have not discriminated or retaliated against Sunni. Since the shutdown, our organization has taken care of our community. We have treated Sunni with the same respect and consideration as all the company members of Hamilton. Specifically, we have given Sunni direct financial support, paid for their health insurance, and paid for their housing. We wish Sunni well in their future endeavors.'

Reid, who first saw Hamilton back in 2015 after a friend won a pair of \$10 tickets, had always dreamt of performing in a show that promoted diversity and inclusion.

'I remember feeling thrilled — I was a young, aspiring theater artist, sitting front row to all of this magnificent Black talent on a Broadway stage,' they shared with the [Los Angeles Times](#).

'It was so cool to see myself reflected in that space, and it really lit a fire under me to visualize it for myself and see if I could make it up there too.'

They joined the Hamilton cast on Broadway after graduating from Pace University's performing arts program in 2017.

Reid initially held an ensemble role and eventually understudied for several lead roles during the show's Chicago residency including that of Aaron Burr, George Washington, Hercules Mulligan/James Madison and Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson.

Their attorneys, Lawrence M. Pearson and Lindsay M. Goldbrum of Wigdor LLP, issued a statement to DailyMail.com on Wednesday regarding the suit.

'Publicly, Hamilton is a beacon of diversity and appears committed to causes seeking social justice and harmony,' the statement read.

'Behind the curtain, however, the Company's management will force out a black, transgender cast member simply because they stood up for themselves and advocated for a more equitable workplace, and therefore called that public image into question. We look forward to upholding Mx. Reid's rights and hope this is a wake-up call for the theater industry about the systemic inequities that persist even at its greatest heights.'

According to the law firm, the complaint filed with the EEOC and California Department of Fair Employment and Housing is a precursor to filing a federal lawsuit.

'Mx. Reid can and will seek economic damages for financial harm and emotional distress, as well as punitive damages, as well as reinstatement of employment,' Pearson stated.

'Mx. Reid also naturally hopes that the filing of their claims lead to Hamilton and its related companies taking a different, less hostile and adversarial approach in the future with employees who raise issues and concerns regarding discrimination, racial equity, and accommodations.'

Meanwhile, Reid told the Times they were nervous to share their story.

'It's a very vulnerable thing to share. It makes me a little anxious, but at the same time, it's very unfair that this company gets to enjoy the benefits of these claims of diversity and inclusion, but essentially excommunicate someone who spoke up about it,' they explained.

'A lot of theater artists have spoken out about the injustices they've experienced inside these theaters and within these companies. It feels as though Broadway and the entire industry has reopened without necessarily acknowledging a lot of these things.'

Reid continued: 'Those people who are smiling and singing and dancing and bringing them such joy — what is happening to those people after they exit the stage? What are their working conditions? I hope this is an opportunity for consumers of theater to dig deeper and be mindful of where their dollar is going.'