

'Hamilton' Trans Actor Claims Retaliation Over Gender-Neutral Dressing Room Request

D deadline.com/2021/10/hamilton-trans-cast-member-eeoc-complaint-dressing-room-1234855246

October 13, 2021

Suni Reid, a non-binary performer who appeared in the Broadway, Chicago and Los Angeles productions of *Hamilton* in both ensemble and principal roles, has filed an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaint alleging that their contract was not renewed in retaliation over a request for a gender-neutral dressing room during the L.A. production.

“Publicly, *Hamilton* is a beacon of diversity and appears committed to causes seeking social justice and harmony,” said Reid’s attorneys Lawrence M. Pearson and Lindsay M. Goldbrum of Wigdor LLP in a statement. “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 complaint, Reid “made a legally protected request” last June seeking access to a gender-neutral dressing room at the Hollywood Pantages theater where *Hamilton* plays. “Weeks later,” according to the attorneys, “*Hamilton* suspended the renewal of Mx. Reid’s contract, sidelining them during rehearsals, previews, and finally opening night and beyond.”

Reid retained legal counsel in late July and informed the production of the legal claims of discrimination and retaliation. In September 2021, the production told Reid that their contract would not be renewed. *Hamilton*, with book, music, and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda and direction by Thomas Kail, began performances at the Pantages on August 17.

Deadline has reached out to a spokesperson for *Hamilton* for comment. A statement is forthcoming.

Among the principal *Hamilton* roles Reid has performed are Aaron Burr, George Washington, Hercules Mulligan/James Madison, and Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson.

According to the complaint, the production eventually provided the gender-neutral dressing room after cast member Rory O’Malley (who plays King George) “generously offered to give up his dressing room, but the Company still would not drop its retaliatory animus toward Mx. Reid and rescinded their contract renewal offer altogether.”

Reid also claims that they were subjected to additional instances of discrimination and harassment by some cast members and management, “including incidents in which certain actors physically threatened Mx. Reid or intentionally and repeatedly mis-gendered them.”

