

HELL'S KITCHEN

SYNOPSIS

Ali is a 17-year-old girl full of fire – searching for freedom, passion and her place in the world. How she finds them is a New York City coming-of-age story you've never felt before – *Hell's Kitchen*, a new musical from 16-time Grammy® Award winner Alicia Keys, whose songs and experiences growing up in NY inspire a story made for Broadway.

Rebellious and stifled by an overprotective single mother, Ali is lost until she meets her mentor: a neighbor who opens her heart and mind to the power of the piano. Set to the rhythm of the 90s, *Hell's Kitchen* is a love story between a mother and daughter. It's about finding yourself, your purpose, and the community that lifts you. Come remember where dreams begin.

The “powerhouse cast” (*Variety*) is led by Shoshana Bean, Brandon Victor Dixon, Tony Award® winner Kecia Lewis, Chris Lee, and Tony Award winner Maleah Joi Moon. *Hell's Kitchen* is directed by four-time Tony Award nominee Michael Greif, with choreography by Tony Award nominee Camille A. Brown, a book by Pulitzer Prize finalist Kristoffer Diaz – and the music of Keys, featuring new songs and her greatest hits.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Think about a time when there was a change in your life. How did you get through it and what steps did you take to move forward? Write a letter to Ali offering her advice on how to adapt and move forward.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Meet the Cast



HERNEY
Shoshana Bean



DAVID
Brandon Victor Dixon



MISS LIZA JANE
Kecia Lewis



POULICE
Chris Lee



ALI
Maleah Joi Moon



RAY ENSEMBLE / US DAVIS
Chad Carstarphen



ENSEMBLE
Reid Clarke



ENSEMBLE, DANCE CAPTAIN
Chloe Davis



ENSEMBLE
Nico DeJesus



ENSEMBLE
Timothy L. Edwards



US DAVIS, RAY
Desmond Sean Ellington



US MISS LIZA JANE, CRYSTAL, MILES
Badia Farha



TRYPY ENSEMBLE
Vanessa Ferguson



ENSEMBLE
David Guzman



US ALI, JESSICA, TONY
Gianna Harris



ENSEMBLE
Jakeim Hart



TONY, US JESSICA, TONY
Takiya "Tiki" Hopson



JESSICA ENSEMBLE
Jackie Leon



ENSEMBLE, ASST. DANCE CAPTAIN
Raechelle Manalo



US ALI, JESSICA, TONY
Jade Milan



ENSEMBLE
Onyx Noel



US MISS LIZA, CRYSTAL
Susan Oliveras



ENSEMBLE
Sarah Parker



ENSEMBLE, US TONY, D
Aaron Nicholas Patterson



ENSEMBLE, ASST. DANCE CAPTAIN
William Roberson



ENSEMBLE
Niki Saludez



MILES ENSEMBLE / US JESSICA
Nyseli Vega



STANDBY FOR JESSICA
Donna Vivino



INDIGENOUS ENSEMBLE / US ANGELO
Lamont Walker II



CRYSTAL/ENSEMBLE / US MISS LIZA
ROMA
Roma Webb



US ALI, JESSICA, TONY
Oscar Whitney Jr.

HELL'S KITCHEN

GET TO KNOW THE HELL'S KITCHEN NEIGHBORHOOD

“Me and my mother live on the 42nd story of a 44-story building on 43rd Street between 9th and 10th Avenues, right in the heart of the neighborhood some people know as Hell’s Kitchen.”

The Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood is located on the west side of Manhattan, spanning from the Hudson River to 8th Avenue between 34th and 59th Streets. Just west of Times Square, Hell’s Kitchen features cuisine from around the world, all kinds of nightlife and, of course a thriving theatre scene as many Broadway, Off-Broadway and non-profit theatres call Hell’s Kitchen home. Hell’s Kitchen has undergone significant changes over the past few decades and has become a much sought-after residential neighborhood. The origin of the name “Hell’s Kitchen” is not entirely clear as historians have a few different theories on how the neighborhood was named. Some historians suggest that Hell’s Kitchen was named after gang leader Davy Crockett’s notorious gambling house in the mid-1800s. Others suggest the name stems from the infamous tenement building “The Hell’s Kitchen” that had deplorable living conditions for all who were housed. The final theory is that the name was derived from the factories that made up the neighborhood, making it an unpleasant place to live or work. No matter where the name came from, Hell’s Kitchen has become a thriving and diverse neighborhood that is enjoyed by residents and tourists alike.

ACTIVATION FOR CLASSROOMS

If you were to create a musical or play about your life, which New York City neighborhood would the story be set and why?

WHAT IS MANHATTAN PLAZA?

“We live in Manhattan Plaza, which is cheap housing for artists. Which means almost everyone who lives here is an artist, which means you never know what you’re going to hear when these elevator doors open up.”

When construction began in the early 1970s, Manhattan Plaza was a commercial venture intended to provide affordable housing to middle-and-upper income families in the hope that the building would help revitalize the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood. Due to the financial crisis in the 1970’s, construction stopped, and the building sat vacant for a few years. Soon, an idea was created when developers, community leaders, politicians and the theatrical industry came together to help Manhattan Plaza reopen as subsidized, affordable housing for people working in television, film and the performing arts. Notable artists who have lived in Manhattan Plaza include: Timotheé Chalamet, Chuck Cooper, Larry David, James Earl Jones, Angela Lansbury, Alan Menken, Tennessee Williams and Alicia Keys.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

If you were to live in an artists’ building, which floor would you want to live on, and which art form would it be dedicated to? Why?

POP CULTURE IMPACT

Alicia Keys has made an impact on music and pop culture since she burst onto the music scene with the release of her debut album *Songs in A Minor* in 2001. The album was a critical and commercial success and garnered Keys five Grammy Awards, including Best New Artist and Song of the Year for her breakout single “Fallin’.” Since her debut, Alicia has continued to influence the world through her music, and also through her philanthropy, activism, social justice, and empowerment. Alicia pushed the boundaries for artistic expression and is a pioneering force for generations to come.

Alicia’s impact on music is witnessed in her new Broadway musical *Hell’s Kitchen*, which features over 20 songs from her vast catalogue of hits. Alicia, alongside her collaborator Kristoffer Diaz, has been working on the musical *Hell’s Kitchen* for over a decade. [Read the interview](#) Playbill conducted with Alicia where she talks about legacy and her inspiration to create *Hell’s Kitchen*.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

If you had your life turned in to a musical, which artist, songwriter or musician would underscore or amplify your story? Why?