



University of Melbourne Music Theatre Association

Presents

Stephen Sondheim's



ASSASSINS

7th – 15th October 2011

Guild Theatre, Union House

University of Melbourne, Parkville

Creative Team

Director	Tyson Legg
Assistant Director	Spencer Hadlow
Musical Director	Louis Sharpe
Choreographer	Lauri Uldrikis

Audition Information Pack

SYNOPSIS

Bold, original, surreal, disturbing, thought-provoking and alarmingly funny, "Assassins" is perhaps the most controversial musical ever written. This most American of musicals lays bare the lives of nine individuals who assassinated or tried to assassinate the President of the United States, in a one-act historical "revusical" that explores the dark side of the American experience.

From John Wilkes Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman bend the rules of time and space, taking us on a nightmarish rollercoaster ride in which assassins and would-be assassins from different historical periods meet, interact and in an intense final scene inspire each other to commit harrowing acts in the name of the American Dream.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

BALLADEER Tenor	A Woody Guthrie/Peter Seeger-style folk singer.
CHARLES GUTEAU (1841-1882) Baritone/Tenor	Assassinated President James Garfield in the waiting room of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station, Washington, D.C., July 2, 1881. Dashing but mad.
GIUSEPPE ZANGARA (1900-1933) Tenor - Must hold an A	Attempted to assassinate President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt greeted well-wishers in Bayfront Park, Miami, February 15, 1933. Angry, heavily-accented immigrant.
JOHN HINCKLEY (1955-) High Baritone	Attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan as he left the Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C., March 30, 1981. Depressed college student.
JOHN WILKES BOOTH (1838-1865) Baritone	Assassinated President Abraham Lincoln during a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater, Washington D.C., April 14, 1865.
LEE HARVEY OSWALD (1939-1963) Non-singing role	Assassinated President John F. Kennedy from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963. Dejected shipping clerk planning suicide.

<p>LEON CZOLOGOSZ (1873-1901) Baritone/Bass</p>	<p>Assassinated President William McKinley during a public reception at the Temple of Music Pavilion at the Pan American Exposition, Buffalo, N.Y., September 6, 1901. Poverty-worn young radical (pronounced Chole-gosh).</p>
<p>LYNETTE "SQUEAKY" FROMME (1948-) Mezzo</p>	<p>Attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford as he left the St. Francis Hotel, Sacramento, CA., September 5, 1975. Pixie hippie in love with Charles Manson.</p>
<p>SAMUEL BYCK (1930-1974) Baritone</p>	<p>Attempted to assassinate President Richard Nixon; hijacked a commercial jetliner which he intended to crash dive into the White House, Baltimore-Washington International Airport, February 22, 1974. Hysterically irate schlep in a Santa Claus suit.</p>
<p>SARA JANE MOORE (1930-) Soprano</p>	<p>Attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford as he left the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, CA., September 22, 1975. Frazzled housewife.</p>
<p>THE PROPRIETOR Baritone</p>	<p>The proprietor of a shooting gallery at a carnival.</p>
<p>ENSEMBLE Various</p>	<p><i>Assassins</i> will also feature a small ensemble (three male and three female) to perform multiple supporting roles.</p>

AUDITION TIMES

Tuesday 2 nd August	6pm – 9pm, Graham Cornish Room B
Thursday 4 th August	6pm – 9pm, Graham Cornish Room B
Friday 5 th August	6pm – 9pm, Graham Cornish Room A
Saturday 6 th August	11:30am – 1:30pm, Graham Cornish Room B
Sunday 7 th August	11:30am – 1:30pm, Des Connor Room

Audition sign-ups can be made via the UMMTA website (www.ummta.org) - please make sure you fill in all of the required details. A photo will be taken of you during the audition process, so you don't need to worry about providing a headshot.

Get in quick, because appointments will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis!

INDIVIDUAL AUDITION

Please prepare two contrasting songs in the style of the show. You may only be required to sing one song. You will need to bring sheet music in the correct key – no transposing, backing tracks or a cappella singing will be accepted. You may also be required to read a short excerpt from the script.

Auditions will be held in Union House, in the centre of the University of Melbourne Parkville campus. The campus can be easily reached by catching any tram up Swanston St from Flinders St Station or Melbourne Central. To reach the Graham Cornish rooms, enter Union House by any of the main entrances (sliding doors) and proceed to the 2nd floor. To reach the Des Connor room, you will need to enter via a side entrance on the eastern side of Union House and climb the stairs. Signs will be posted at Union House on the day of auditions. Please check the map at http://pcs.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/151931/Map_2011_rev26_Portrait.pdf to ensure you don't get lost!

CALLBACK AUDITION

You may be asked to attend a callback audition, involving further vocal work and more readings from the script. You will not need to prepare any further material for the callback audition, and will be notified before the date of the callback.

Callback auditions will take place on Sunday the 7th of August, from 2pm – 5:30pm.

IMPORTANT DATES

By auditioning for the show, you agree to make yourself available for at least the following dates – note that this list is not exhaustive, and may be subject to change:

First rehearsal:	Tuesday 9 th August
Subsequent rehearsals:	Tuesday and Thursday evenings: 6pm – 9pm; Sundays (starting from the 28th of August): 12-5pm (this time is subject to change) Note: not every cast member will be needed at every rehearsal.
Intensive rehearsal period:	Friday 23 rd – Sunday 25 th September. The intensive period will involve two full days of rehearsal over the weekend, preceded by a rehearsal from 6pm – 9pm on Friday the 23 rd , and incorporating a cast get-together on Saturday night. There will be no regular rehearsal on Thursday the 22 nd .
Bump-in:	Sunday 2 nd October
Technical and dress rehearsals:	4 th – 6 th October
Performance dates:	7 th – 15 th October

SHOW FEES AND COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

All-inclusive show fee of \$45 (\$40 for UMMTA members) will cover participation costs, your own show t-shirt and lifetime UMMTA membership if applicable.

Cast members are not required to be students at the University of Melbourne, nor must they be members of the Melbourne University Student Union.

Book now! We're waiting!

www.ummta.org