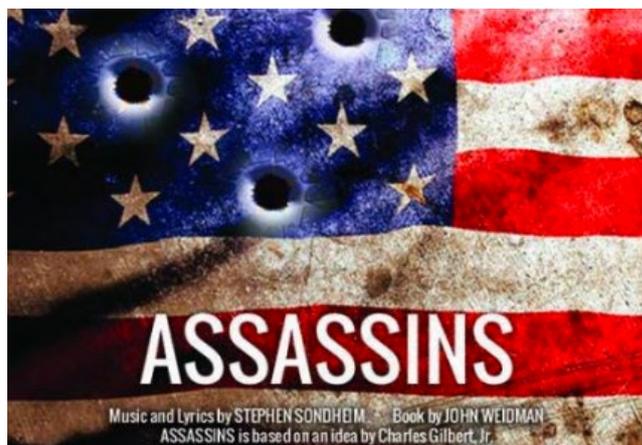


COME HERE AND KILL A PRESIDENT



Wednesday 25th - Saturday 28th November 2020

Stephen Sondheim's musical

'Assassins'

This intimate musical will be performed at the Wellington Rooms

We are now taking expressions of interest from people who wish to be involved

Practical information

Show duration: 100mins (no interval)

Basic synopsis: Set in fairground limbo, the proprietor introduces a bunch of disenfranchised misfits to a murderous carnival game where their problems will be solved and their hopes & dreams achieved, by shooting the president. Semi-narrated by a sceptical and often-mocking balladeer seemingly divorced from the proceedings, we meet the men and women who attempted to kill the president, as they explain, in revue style, their aims and motivations. Realising their infamy is disappearing into the footnotes of history, they turn on the balladeer convincing him to commit the one act that will elevate all political-assassins to legends – the assassination of John F Kennedy.

Cast recordings for reference



Original off-Broadway
Cast recording



2004 Revival

Notable productions: Original off-Broadway 1991
London premier 1992
Broadway revival: 2004 (starring Neil Patrick Harris) – this is the licenced version
London Revival 2014

Please note: This is a complicated ensemble show, which will also require a level of research as the majority of characters in the show are/were real people; performers must think hard as to whether they can commit the time required – especially in regards to other show commitments. Assassins, like most Sondheim musicals, is often referred to as an 'actor's musical' – strong character actors are therefore a pre-requisite for all roles.

Characters

The Assassins

Character	President		Playing age	Vocal
John Wilkes Booth (1838 – 1865)	Lincoln	** Died in a barn-fire surrounded by police. ** Suave & charismatic, Booth is the man the other assassins look up to, and ends up convincing Oswald to kill JFK. ** Has authority and control of every scene he's in SONG: Ballad of Booth	27-40	Tenor
Charles Guiteau (1841 – 1882)	Garfield	** Eccentric with a big extrovert personality – he believes he's destined for greatness. ** Believing he played a part in Garfield's election and would be rewarded by becoming Ambassador to France, he was so enraged by rejection he shot the President – he was then hung SONG: The Ballad of Guiteau	35-50	Tenor
Leon Czolgosz (1873-1901)	McKinley	** Executed by electric chair after killing McKinley ** Polish immigrant who was an anarchist, appalled at the lot of the working class (h works in a bottle factory) SONG : The Gun Song	30-40	Bass- Baritone
Giuseppe Zangara (1900 – 1933)	Roosevelt	** Injured 5 by-standers & killed Mayor Cervak for which he was executed by electric chair.	30-40	Tenor

		** Deranged Italian immigrant in agony with a chronic stomach illness SONG: How I saved Roosevelt		
Samuel Byck (1930 – 1974)	Nixon	** Blamed his problems on the government, an outspoken critic of Nixon who picketed the White House in a Santa suit. ** His plan was to hijack a plane and crash into the White House SONG: Another national Anthem	40-55	Baritone
Lee Harvey Oswald (1939 – 1963)	Kennedy	** Starts as cynical observer/commentator ('the balladeer') but is revealed at the end to in fact be JFK's would-be assassin. ** As the balladeer he appears in many scenes – usually offering a scornful view of the assassin in question SONG: Ballad of Booth -- (as the Balladeer)	25-35	Tenor
John Hinckley (1955 –)	Regan	** Recluse, who obsessed about Jodie Foster ** Believed 'one great act' would prove to her his love (after he ignored his letters) SONG: Unworthy of your love	20-30	Tenor
Lynette Fromme (1948 –)	Ford	** Young and impressionable hippy follower of Charles Manson, who was one of the leaders of the Manson 'family of disciples' ** Obsessively focussed SONG: Unworthy of your love	20-30	Soprano
Sara Jane More (1930 –)	Ford	** Had five husbands and four children ** Joined counter-culture movement but was discovered by them as an informant, so tried to assassinate Ford to regain her friends trust ** Typical 'housewife' type. Disorganised without a strong sense of direction SONG: The Gun Song	40-50	Alto

The others

The Proprietor –A sinister presence, the proprietor is on stage throughout. He/she essentially runs the fairground, selling the assassins guns, and helping manipulate some of them into assassination attempts whilst promoting a version of the 'American Dream' to them. Playing age 35-55. Baritone

Emma Goldman (1869 – 1940). Anarchist political activist and writer. She played a pivotal role in the development of anarchist political philosophy in North America in the first half of the 20th century. The role of Goldman is non-singing, however the actor will also be part of the ensemble. No singing range specified. Playing age 35-50

Ensemble (traditionally 4-5 people)– Appearing frequently, & usually called the 'bystanders', they often comment/observe the action in a series of the musical numbers as well as driving two numbers ('How I saved Roosevelt' and 'Something just broke'). They will also play the smaller spoken parts such as Presidents Ford and Garfield, James Blaine, & David Herold. Playing age – adult (any)

