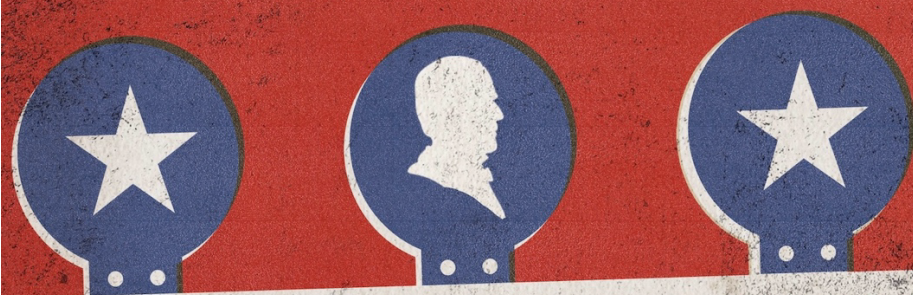
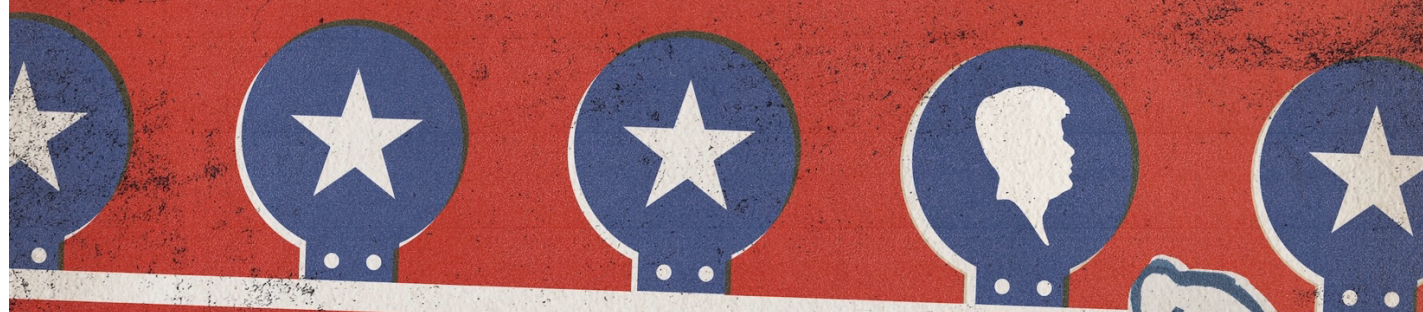
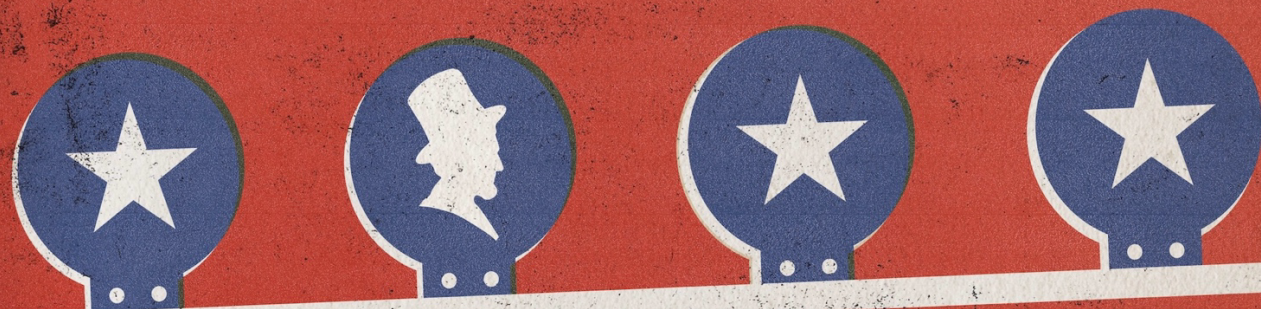


ROGUE ARTISTS THEATRE OF PITTSBURGH
& DOCTUH MISTUH PRODUCTIONS
PRESENT

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S

ASSASSINS



DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MCKELVEY

AUGUST 20-23

GREER CABARET THEATRE

MORE INFO: DOCTUHMISTUH.ORG

ASSASSINS

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by John Weidman

Assassins is based on an idea by Charles Gilbert, Jr.

Originally produced off-Broadway by Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York in 1990.

**Assassins* is presented with special permission by Music Theatre International.

WARNING! PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS PRODUCTION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Simulated Acts of Violence, Suicide, Sexual Assault, Harm to Children, and Harm to Animals.
- Racially Insensitive Language and Profanity
- Guns (Yes, there are lots of guns on stage. All weapons are non-firing props.)
- Prerecorded Gunshots and Loud Noises

ABOUT ROGUE ARTISTS OF PITTSBURGH & DOCTUH MISTUH PRODUCTIONS

Rogue Theatre Artists of Pittsburgh is a theatre collective founded to offer professional opportunities to local artists and to introduce Pittsburgh audiences to overlooked productions from off-Broadway and regional theatres. RAT Pitt is a component of Doctuh Mistuh Productions, an award-winning, 501c3 organization, established in Austin, TX in 2009. DMP has produced regional premieres of *Heathers*, *Lizzie: The Musical*, *Silence!: The Musical*, *Pretty Filthy*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and *Nevermore-The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe*. Here are some shows we are considering bringing to Pittsburgh the near future: *Lizzie*, *Teeth*, *Reefer Madness*, *Scotland, PA*. We would love to hear your voice. Please check out our website (doctuhmistuh.org) and follow us on FB & IG (@rogueartists theatre @doctuhmistuhproductions).

WHY IS RAT PITT BRINGING ASSASSINS TO PITTSBURGH FOR ITS FIRST SHOW?

The inspiration for the show has roots in Pittsburgh. As the story goes, Charles Gilbert, Jr., a Carnegie Mellon Tech Drama grad student, wrote a musical by the same title, which premiered at a small warehouse theatre in Pittsburgh. Gilbert later submitted the work to a musical theatre writing program in New York. Stephen Sondheim, who mentored the program, read the show and found the idea of U.S. presidential assassins throughout history converging in one time and place intriguing. He subsequently asked Gilbert for permission to use the idea and title. *Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman premiered off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons in 1990. Most critics panned it. After small rewrites, the show had a successful run in London's West End. The political instability in America between the early 1990s and 2000s, marked by events such as Operation Desert Storm and 9/11, delayed the Broadway debut of *Assassins*. In 2004, *Assassins* finally received its long-awaited Broadway "revival," which would win multiple Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical. Critics have hailed Sondheim's "Assassins" as a "near perfect" musical theatre production, noting that, like many of his works, it was truly ahead of its time.

ASSASSINS – ORDER OF SHOW

*ASSASSINS is performed with NO INTERMISSION
Running Time: 105 Minutes

Scene One: Opening-“Everybody’s Got the Right”....The Proprietor & The Assassins

Scene Two-Tabacco Barn, Rural Virginia
“The Ballad of Booth”....The Balladeer, Booth, David Harold

Scene Three: A Western Saloon in Limbo-The Assassins

Scene Four: Bayfront Park, Miami, FL.
“How I Saved Roosevelt”.....Giuseppe Zangara and Bystanders

Scene Five: Chicago, IL. Summer 1901-Emma Goldman & Leon Czolgosz

Scene Six: A Park in Limbo. Sara Jane Moore & “Squeaky” Fromme

Scene Seven: “The Gun Song”.....Czolgosz, Booth, Guiteau & Moore

Scene Eight: The Temple of Music Pavilion, Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, NY
in September 6, 1901.
“Ballad of Czolgosz”.....The Balladeer, Czolgosz & Ensemble

Scene Nine: A Sidewalk Bench in Limbo-Sam Byck

Scene Ten: Limbo
“Unworthy of Your Love”...Hinckley & Fromme

Scene Eleven: Park in Limbo and Baltimore & Potomac Railroad Station in Washington, D.C.,
July 2, 1881-Sara Jane Moore, Charles Guiteau, James Blaine and President Garfield

Scene Twelve: The Gallows
“Ballad of Guiteau”.....The Balladeer, Guiteau & Ensemble

Scene Thirteen: A Park in Limbo-Moore, Fromme, Little Billy, President Gerald Ford

Scene Fourteen: Highway in a ’67 Buick driving to the airport-Sam Byck

Scene Fifteen: “Another National Anthem”-The Assassins, Balladeer & Proprietor

Scene Sixteen: A storeroom on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas,
Texas-Lee Harvey Oswald, Booth & The Assassins

Scene Seventeen: “Something Just Broke”-Housewife & Ensemble

Scene Eighteen: Finale-“Everybody’s Got the Right”.....The Assassins

CAST LIST

John Wilkes Booth
Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald
Sam Byck
Sara Jane Moore
Leon Czolgosz
Charles J. Guiteau
Giuseppe Zangara
John Hinckley, Jr
Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme
The Proprietor/Ensemble
Emma Goldman/Ensemble
Housewife/Ensemble/Female U/S
David Harold/Ensemble/Male U/S

Allan Snyder
Asher Alcantara
J. Alex Noble*
Zanny Laird*
Griffin Frye
Connor Bahr
Anthony Marino
Corwin Stoddard
Mae Ryness
Allante Walker
Arkida Saiwai
Michaela Isenberg
Marshall Benton

*A member of Actors Equity Association

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage & Music Director, Sound Designer
Lighting & Video Designer
Costume & Scenic Designer
Production Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Movement and Intimacy Consultant
Sound Engineer
Lighting Operator
Associate Costume & Scenic Designer
Scenic Painter
Dresser
Casting Director
Dramaturg
Graphic Designer
Rehearsal Accompanists

Michael McKelvey
Andrew David Ostrowski
Sydney de Haan
Aidan Quartana
Lauren Dursky
Lucas Fedele
Bob Bollman
Sophia Marino
Trish M. Brown
Sophia Rowles
Marissa Waitlevertch
Brian Pope
TJ Young
Jordan Pincus
Ben Brosche, Mike Meketa Sanchez & Camille Rolla

BAND

Conductor/Keyboard I
Keyboard II/Programming
Reed
Trumpet
Guitar
Percussion

Ben Brosche
Mike Meketa Sanchez
Clint Bleil
Adam Bleil
Alex Kenrick
Kamran Mian

****SPECIAL THANKS to JOHN NOBLE, RAT Pitt’s first donor. You’re a Rock Star!!!!****

We’re all in this together! Without these people and organizations, we would be lost...

Gwendolyn Kelso, Alex Noble, Andy Ostrowski, TJ Young, Gary Logan, Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Drama, Amy Nichols, Shannon Musgrave, Todd Kulik, Kristin Ward and Tiia Lager, Shepherd University for the guns, Pittsburgh CLO, The Cultural Trust, Donald Graves, Julie Neal, Diane Hines, Sharon Eberson & Pittsburgh Onstage, BurghVivant, WQED, Sean Collier & Table Magazine. Turtle Creek Sportswear, and Preferred Arms.

Everybody's Got A Right by TJ Young

When Assassins opened Off-Broadway in 1990, it split audiences. Some saw a crude, insensitive failure; others recognized a wholly original reckoning with American history. Critics rarely quarreled with the songwriting; the fight was always over the subject matter and the tone it piece takes with it. From the start, this musical has carried a stigma, and choosing to produce it has always meant weighing the material against the moment. Its Broadway premiere, originally slated for 2001, was postponed three years after the September 11 attacks made the material feel too raw to stage.¹ Yet Assassins has endured, because it holds open a conversation this country keeps needing to have: about the violence woven into the American fabric.

We are a country that won its freedom with guns, and the Second Amendment ratified the gun's place at the center of the American experience. Still, we tend to treat the nine figures in this musical as aberrations, as if their actions sprang from isolated minds rather than a shared inheritance. We condemn what they did without asking what produced them. In 2025, researchers at UC Davis polled more than 8,000 Americans nationwide about political violence, and found that while a majority rejected it outright, 35.6% said violence was “usually or always” justified to advance a political objective, up from 32.3% the year before.² Across this same body of research, the single most cited justification has consistently been the desire to “preserve an American way of life” they believe in.³ Most people said they would not personally kill for their political beliefs. But 284 said they were “somewhat willing,” and another 117 said they were “very or completely willing” to end a life for their politics.

Is that a right that belongs to any of us? What makes such a choice justifiable?

These are the questions that make Assassins timely rather than merely provocative. History is full of people convinced their violence could bend the country toward a future they believed in, or simply earn them the notoriety history otherwise denied them. The musical moves its nine assassins across a hundred years without regard for chronology, letting them speak to and past one another, so we can see the cycle we keep stumbling into, generation after generation. And still, it is unmistakably our history. We learn the names of the presidents who were killed in the same breath as the names of the people who killed them. The American story, this musical insists, is written by both sides of the trigger.

Notes

1. The New York Times, 2004
2. UC Davis Centers for Violence Prevention, 2026
3. UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program

MEET THE ASSASSINS

JOHN WILKES BOOTH - Assassinated President Abraham Lincoln during a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater, Washington, D.C., April 14, 1965.

CHARLES GUITEAU - Assassinated President James Garfield in the waiting room of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad Station, Washington, D.C., July 2, 1881.

LEON CZOLGOSZ - Assassinated President William McKinley during a public reception at the Temple of Music Pavilion at the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, New York, September 6, 1901.

GIUSEPPE ZANGARA - Attempted to assassinate President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt as Roosevelt greeted well-wishers in Bayfront Park, Miami, Florida, February 15, 1933.

SAMUEL BYCK - 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.

LYNETTE ("SQUEAKY") FROMME - Attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford as he left the Senator Hotel, Sacramento, California, September 5, 1975.

SARA JANE MOORE - Attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford as he left the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, California, September 22, 1975.

JOHN HINCKLEY - Attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan as he left the Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C., March 30, 1981.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD - Assassinated President John F. Kennedy from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963.

COMPANY BIOS

Asher Alcantara (Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald) is a rising junior in CMU's Music Theater program and is thrilled to be making his professional Pittsburgh theatre debut at the Greer. Originally from Wilmette, Illinois, Asher has been performing and making music with his family since childhood. A native of the Chicago area, he has appeared with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Goodman Theatre.

Connor Bahr (Charles Guiteau) - Is thrilled to be a part of this exciting new company with these incredible colleagues. Recent credits include: *Into The Woods* (Steward) with PCLO, *Guys and Dolls* (Benny Southstreet), and *Play That Goes Wrong* (Chris) both with Lincoln Park. Thank you to Michael, the production team, and his family. As always, thank you to Justin and Bobby.

Marshall Benton (David Harold/Ensemble) is from Savannah, Ga. He is a rising Senior Musical Theatre Major at Point Park University. His recent credits are *Forbidden Broadway*, and as Bobby Strong in *Urinetown the Musical* (Pittsburgh Playhouse). Thanks to the whole cast and crew for this experience, and his Mom and Dad for the constant encouragement and love. Thanks y'all!

Griffin Frye (Leon Czolgosz) is a Junior Acting major at Carnegie Mellon University. He is super excited for the opportunity to be a part of Rouge Artist Theatre's Assassins! He will appear at CMU in October as Martin in *Fool for Love*. He thanks his mother for all her support and love. "Dream. Discover. Explore."

Michaela Isenberg (Housewife/Ensemble/Understudy) is honored to be a part of this talent-filled cast. BFA: Seton Hill University. Select Credits: *Hairspray* (Velma Von Tussle), *Titanic* (Caroline Neville), *Annie* (Ensemble, u/s Grace Farrell), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Gussie Carnegie). Many thanks to Michael and the entire creative team. Endless love to her family for their unwavering support.

Zanny Laird* (Sara Jane Moore) World premieres: *August: Osage County* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Trust* (Lookingglass Theatre), *Kragtar: A Monster Musical* (Off-Broadway), and the pre-Broadway workshop of *Head Over Heels* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). Local credits: Pittsburgh Public Theater, City Theatre, Quantum Theatre, PCLO, and PMT. Zanny holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Carnegie Mellon University and is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA.

Anthony Marino (Giuseppe Zangara) is beyond excited to bring Assassins here to the Greer. He sends his love to his mom, dad, Gia, Maya, and students at Westmoreland Performing Arts. Credits include: *Evan-Dear Evan Hansen* (Pittsburgh Musical Theater) *Sailor-South Pacific* (Pittsburgh Symphony), *Eddie-Trouble in Mind* (Pittsburgh Public) *Igor-Young Frankenstein* (CLO), @anthonymaxmarino, @anthings

J. Alex Noble* (Sam Byck) is truly grateful and excited to be a part of the inaugural RATPITT production. A Pittsburgh native, he has appeared onstage with Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, PICT Classic Theater, Quantum Theater, and others. He is a graduate of Point Park University and has been a member of Actor's Equity since 2012. Thank you, Michael, for taking the chance on this idea 10 years in the making and thank you to Dad and Beth for your constant love and support.

Mae Ryness (Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme) is a junior acting major at Carnegie Mellon University originally from Los Angeles, CA. Some credits include *Wannabe: All Washed Up* (Chelsea) and *Chicago* (Roxie). This is her Professional Theatre Debut and can't wait to share this show! Enjoy! IG: @maeryness

Arkida Saiwai (Emma Goldman/Ensemble) was born in Snellville Georgia, and moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts where she grew up. Now in her first ever Sondheim musical & a junior at Carnegie Mellon University, she is elated to continue her journey majoring in musical theater for the following years. Arkida thanks all of her family, loved ones, and coaches who've poured into and supported her.

Allan Snyder* (John Wilkes Booth) is thrilled to be part of such a relevant and timely production, in the company of an outstanding group of local artists. Credits include *Les Miserables* (Broadway), *The Fantasticks* (off-Bway), and *The Phantom of the Opera* (title role, national tour). A proud Pittsburgher since 2015, local credits include shows for Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Public, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Front Porch, PICT, and Lincoln Park PAC. Thank you for supporting local artists and productions!

Corwin Stoddard (John Hinckley Jr.) is proud to return to this timely-as-ever piece of theatre. He has worked with numerous local companies, such as Front Porch Theatricals (Merrily We Roll Along, AMONI), PCLO (A Musical Christmas Carol), and Bricolage. Many thanks to Michael and Alex, as well as his fantastic family and friends.

Allante Walker (Proprietor/Ensemble) is thrilled to be part of *Assassins* alongside so many talented artists and friends. Recent credits include *Company* (David), *Shrek the Musical* (Donkey), *Into the Woods* (The Baker), and *RENT* (Benny). Offstage, he produces *Talk Pittsburgh*, airing weekdays at 3 p.m. on KDKA-TV. Love and thanks to his family and friends for their endless support. Instagram: @allantewalker

PRODUCTION BIOS

Ben Brosche (Conductor/Keyboard) is a Pittsburgh-based pianist, music director, performer, and collaborative artist. He recently served as Music Director for City Theatre's *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. His credits include Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh CLO, City Theatre, the New Hazlett, Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, Attack Theatre, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Lauren Dursky (Assistant Stage Manager) is a multi-faceted theatre artist. Her latest pursuits have been studying Stage and Production Management at Carnegie Mellon School of Drama (*The Little Prince and Titanic*). Other credits include, Stage Management: *Romeo et Juliette* (Resonance Works), *August: Osage County* (Iowa Stage Theatre Co.), *Cabaret* (Des Moines Community Playhouse).

Sydney de Haan (Costume & Scenic Designer) is a Pittsburgh-based costume and scenic designer and a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama. Her work spans theatre, film, and new works, with a passion for collaborative storytelling. For *Assassins*, she is grateful for the opportunity to serve as both Costume and Scenic Designer and hopes you enjoy the show.

Lucas Fedele (Movement Consultant) is an artist devoted to the vitalization of theatre through his work as a creative, educator, performer, and producer. He serves as Assistant Teaching Professor of Dance at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama, and is a member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and SDC.

Michael McKelvey (Stage & Music Director) is an award-winning theatre artist whose passion for smaller and edgier works has given critics license to give him titles such as "King of the Chamber Musical" and "Let There Be Blood" McKelvey. An Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre at CMU, he has taught as a tenured faculty member at St. Edward's University and Point Park University and served as the Producing Artistic Director of Summer Lyric Theatre in New Orleans and Summer Stock Austin. @doctuhmistuh

Andrew David Ostrowski (Lighting Designer and Video Designer) Andy is quite excited to work on this production with this new and talented company. Over his professional career he has designed over 400+ shows. His work has been seen internationally, nationally, and locally. He has been awarded a Kennedy Center honor, a lifetime achievement award, and others. If you would like to see more of his work please go to www.tfpld.com

Brian Pope (Casting Director) is a Philadelphia-born, Pittsburgh-based casting director and playwright. His casting work includes *SIXTY NINE-SEVENTY* (prod./dir. Alex Manalo) and many shows at Pittsburgh Public Theater. His plays include *Himbos* (New Hazlett Theater CSA series) and *Milo de Venus* (Non-State Actors). Thanks to Michael for this opportunity and to Joseph and D.W. for everything else!

Aidan Quartana (Production Stage Manager) is a multi-hyphenate theatre artist-educator, director, arts administrator, stage manager. Education work: Pittsburgh CLO, CAPA, Stagedoor Manor and Signature Theatre. Directing/creative credits: many of those organizations, plus Greensburg Civic Theatre, Front Porch Theatricals, and The Theatre Factory. He is Director of Production at the Becoming Arts Collective.

Marissa Waitlevertch (Dresser) is a dance artist from Pittsburgh and graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in Dance. Marissa then danced and choreographed for WhirlWind Dance for two seasons. She is proud to bring her work home and honor the community where her dreams first began.

TJ Young (Dramaturg) is a Texas-born playwright and dramaturg based in Pittsburgh. His award-winning works include *WE FLY*, *The Inseparables*, and *No. 6*. He is a Carnegie Mellon professor and teaches writing workshops nationally. He is writing the book for the new musical, *Kill the Whale*.

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If you are a lover of live theatre, especially shows that may push the envelope a bit, we welcome you to be part of the RAT Pitt Family. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to support Pittsburgh's newest professional theatre collective, please scan the QR code below or go to <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/rat-pitt-fund>



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