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Spring 5-7-2008

Assassins Playbill

Providence College

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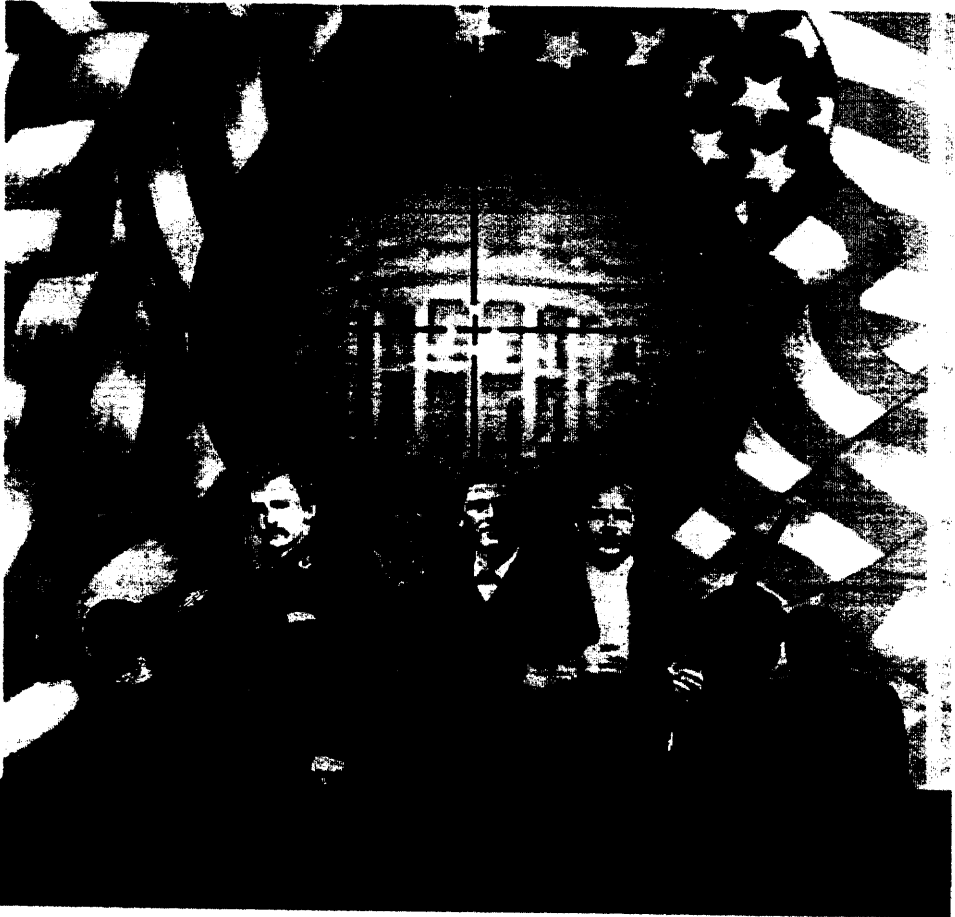
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ASSASSINS

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman

Directed by Kevin Black '09



BOWAB STUDIO THEATRE

MAY 7, 2008

SCENE BREAKDOWN

Scene 1: Ballad of Booth.....Balladeer, Booth, Herold, Voice
Scene 2: Unworthy of Your Love.....Hinckley and Fromme
Scene 3: Ballad of Guiteau....Balladeer, Guiteau, Garfield, Blaine
Scene 4: Byck Monologue.....Byck
Finale: Everybody's Got the Right.....Company

CAST

Sam Brilhante '11.....Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme
Colleen Burns '10Balladeer
Marc Francis '10.....Charles Guiteau
Justin Pimentel '10.....Sam Byck
Craig Schutz '09.....John Wilkes Booth
Dan Travers '08.....John Hinckley

CREW

Anthony DiDonna '09.....Pianist
Cat McDonnell '11.....Stage Manager
Craig Schutz '09.....Lighting Designer
Paul Perry '10.....Sound Designer
Brandon Ferretti '09.....Projection Op
Christiane Darby '09.....Sound Board Op
Peter Cunis '10.....Light Board Op

PROFILE OF THE ASSASSINS



John Wilkes Booth *the father of presidential assassins, killed President Lincoln*
A famous actor who got his start in Philadelphia at the Arch Street Theater. He was called by critics, "the most handsome man in America." A Confederate sympathizer Booth hatched a plot to kill the President in 1864, just as the Civil War had begun to favor the North. On April 14, 1865, four days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox Booth assassinated Lincoln (his fame gave him unrestricted access to Ford's Theatre) He died 12 days later at the age of 26, shot in the neck by a Union soldier and dragged from the burning barn where he had been hiding



Sam Byck *the assassin from Philadelphia, attempted to kill President Nixon*
An unemployed tire salesman, Byck was a manic depressive who eventually developed a theory that the government was oppressing the poor. After many vocal outbursts against Nixon, the Secret Service visited Byck at his home and he eventually developed his assassination plot. In 1974, at 33, he attempted to hijack a plane out of BWI and crash it into White House. Byck killed two men before he was bested by police and shot himself in the head. The plane never left the gate.



Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme *the lover, attempted to kill President Ford*
The daughter of a homemaker and an aeronautic engineer, Fromme left home after an argument with her father. She met Charles Manson on the beach in Venice, CA and has been devoted to him and his philosophies ever since. In 1975, at 26, she pointed a .45 loaded with four rounds (though none were in the firing chamber) at President Ford. The U.S. Attorney recommended severe punishment for Fromme as she was "full of hate and violence." In response, Fromme threw an apple at him hitting him between the eyes. Up for parole since 1985, she has never asked for a hearing.



Charles Guiteau *the egomaniac, killed President Garfield*
The fourth of six children, his mother died when he was seven and he was often beaten by his father. He was a member of the controversial religious Oneida Community in NY, a utopian commune which promulgated free love. After several unsuccessful careers (newspaper man, lawyer) and accounts of abuse (battery of wife threatened sister with an ax), it was recommended he be institutionalized. He was not, and instead became an itinerate preacher. In 1880 at the age of 38, he turned to politics. A supporter of Garfield during the election, he was angered when not appointed to Garfield's staff. He shot Garfield in July of 1881 and was hanged for his offense in June of '82.



John Hinckley *the stalker, attempted to kill President Reagan*
A son of the owner of Hinckley Oil Company, he moved to Los Angeles at 20 to become a songwriter. When this venture failed, he moved back to his parents' home. A year later, after seeing the movie *Taxi Driver*, he fell in love with a young Jodie Foster. He briefly moved to New Haven to be close to her while she attended Yale. When more conventional methods of getting her attention failed, he plotted to assassinate the President to win her favor. After trailing Carter, he turned his focus on Reagan after his election in 1980. In '81, after collecting information about Lee Harvey Oswald, he shot at Reagan six times, wounding him and three others. After a successful insanity plea, he has spent the past 26 years at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in

A Note from the Director....

Thank you all for coming and supporting my 3rd project of the semester. This independent study has given so many great opportunities to work with fellow students and experiment with different ideas and styles. I chose *Assassins* as my final project because of its relevance with the upcoming election. With the uncertainty of the future looming over us, Sondheim asks the audience of *Assassins* to think critically of ourselves as a nation, something we may not be very comfortable doing. How do we marginalize people and make them feel as outcasts in our own society? The perfect compliment to this play would be the Brechtian style of theatre which asks the audience to think critically about the situation of a play and not just simply surrender emotionally to the characters. After watching *Assassins*, I hope it will inspire the young audience members to go out and vote in the upcoming election, for it is the most efficient way to voice our opinions and assert our rights. Brecht wanted to his theatre to be socially relevant and to spark his audiences to go out and change the inadequacies in the world. In my interpretation, Sondheim wrote *Assassins* with that point in mind. So, listen closely to these marginalized people as they tell their story, cause just like you and me, 'Everybody's Got the Right' to be happy...

