



1245 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02886 | 401.723.4266 | GAMMTHEATRE.ORG

Tony Estrella, Artistic Director | Amy Gravell, Managing Director

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THE GAMM PRESENTS SONDHEIM'S *ASSASSINS* Production Marks Theater's First Broadway Musical

WARWICK, RI (January 28, 2020) – The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) stages *Assassins*, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's revue-style musical examining the motives of notorious Americans who take aim at the president of the United States—and what they believe is their best shot at the American Dream. **Daringly original and darkly comic, *Assassins* is a timely exploration of the nation's fixation on celebrity and its potentially dangerous consequences.** Against a carnival setting, Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella and Musical Director Lila Kane weave the stories of nine successful and would-be presidential assassins by way of Sondheim's stunning music and signature satirical lyrics.

Assassins made its off-Broadway debut in 1990. Its 2004 Broadway production won five **Tony Awards**, including **Best Revival of a Musical**. The Gamm's production is the theater's **first Broadway musical in its 35-season history**.

"I often get asked, 'Why doesn't The Gamm ever do musicals?'" said **Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella**. "My half-joking reply is 'because I'm a terrible singer.' So have no fear, I won't be performing in this show. But I *am* fortunate to direct a cast filled with incredible singer-actors who can powerfully deliver Sondheim's beautiful score and the absurdity and single-minded ferocity of the story's stranger-than-fiction historical figures.

"*Assassins* is the perfect play for America today," Estrella added. "As I write this the president not only just ordered an assassination on a political rival, but is undergoing an impeachment trial that is playing less like a sober legal proceeding and more like a run-down three-ring circus. **Sondheim and Weidman wrote *Assassins* in 1990 and famously opened their story at a carnival. Thirty years on, it's barely a metaphor.**"

Assassins runs **March 5-29** at **The Gamm Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI**. Tickets are \$45, \$55 and \$65; preview performances (March 5-8) are \$33. Tickets: **401-723-4266** or gammtheatre.org.

ABOUT *ASSASSINS*

The nation's most notoriously successful and would-be presidential assassins inspire each other to dreadful acts in this Tony Award-winning sensation. From John Wilkes Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald, Sondheim's revue-style exposé bends time and space to reveal the underbelly of the American Dream and the country's culture of celebrity. Don't miss this **audacious and alarmingly funny** experience from the **master of the modern American musical** (*A Little Night Music, Sweeney Todd, Into the Woods*). *Contains mature themes, theatrical gunshots, and depictions of violence.*

WINNER OF THE TONY AWARD FOR BEST REVIVAL OF A MUSICAL

"Nothing quite prepares you for the disturbing brilliance of *Assassins*." *New York Times*

"Dark, demented humor, as horrifying as it is hilarious." *Associated Press*

Season Supporter: **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Assassins

Music and lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**, book by **John Weidman**

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

Directed by **Tony Estrella[†]**

Music Direction by **Lila Kane**

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CAST

Sara Jane Moore..... **Casey Seymour Kim***
Leon Czolgosz..... **Michael Liebhauser**
Samuel Byck..... **Tom Gleadow***
John Wilkes Booth..... **Alexander Platt***
Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme..... **Amanda Ruggiero**
John Hinckley..... **Chris Stahl***
Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald..... **Nile Scott Hawver***
Proprietor..... **Eden Casteel**
Giuseppe Zangara/Herold..... **Andrew Iacovelli**
Charles Guiteau..... **Gabriel Graetz***
Emma Goldman/Ensemble.....**Helena Tafuri**

CREW

Assistant Direction by **Milly Massey**
Assistant Music Direction by **Emily Turtle**
Set Design by **Michael McGarty**
Costume Design by **Meg Donnelly**
Lighting Design by **David Roy**
Sound Design by **Peter Hurowitz**
Production Management by **Jessica Hill**
Stage Management by **Robin Grady***

*Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

Thursday, Mar. 5 preview at 7:30
Friday, Mar. 6 preview at 7:30
Saturday, Mar. 7 preview at 7:30
Sunday, Mar. 8 press preview at 2:00
Sunday, Mar. 8 press preview at 7:30
Tuesday, Mar. 10 opening at 6:30 **(New time!)**
Wednesday, Mar. 11 at 7:30
Thursday, Mar. 12 at 7:30
Friday, Mar. 13 at 7:30
Saturday, Mar. 14 at 7:30
Sunday, Mar. 15 at 2:00*
Sunday, Mar. 15 at 7:30
Tuesday, Mar. 17 at 7:30

Wednesday, Mar. 18 at 7:30
Thursday, Mar. 19 at 7:30
Friday, Mar. 20 at 7:30
Saturday, Mar. 21 at 7:30
Sunday, Mar. 22 2:00
Sunday, Mar. 22 at 7:30
Tuesday, Mar. 24 at 7:30
Wednesday, Mar. 25 at 7:30
Thursday, Mar. 26 at 7:30
Friday, Mar. 27 at 7:30
Saturday, Mar. 28 at 2:00 **(New this season!)**
Saturday, Mar. 28 at 7:30
Sunday, Mar. 29 at 2:00

*Followed by humanities discussion with special guests. Discussion is open to the public and free of charge.

ABOUT THE GAMM THEATRE

Founded in 1984, the non-profit Gamm Theatre creates the finest of live theater, engaging the audience intensely in the most salient issues of our time and all time. The Gamm further serves the public with educational outreach programming designed to support the theatrical experience, and help sustain and enhance the intellectual and cultural life of its community. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tony Estrella and Managing Director Amy Gravell, The Gamm is a regionally recognized, award-winning theater and a proud member of New England Area Theatre (NEAT), a bargaining unit of the Actors' Equity Association.

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