

**September 4 – October 7, 2012**

# ASSASSINS





# ASSASSINS

## PLAY GUIDE

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**Milwaukee Repertory Theater**  
108 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI • 53202

MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER

presents

# ASSASSINS

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman

Based on an idea by Charles Gilbert, Jr.

Directed by Artistic Director Mark Clements

**September 4 – October 7, 2012**

Quadracci Powerhouse



## MARK'S TAKE:

"I am eager to direct Stephen Sondheim's highly entertaining and thought-provoking musical, *Assassins*. It's a riveting exploration of such issues as our obsession with celebrity status, entitlement to the fruits of the American Dream, and our attitudes about guns and gun control, as well as how a society can be inadvertently complicit in facilitating the violent behavior of some of its deranged citizens."

**-Mark Clements, Artistic Director**

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# “EVERYBODY’S GOT THE RIGHT”



Paint elevations for the proscenium of the Milwaukee Rep set depicting Presidents as a part of a carnival game. Design by Set Designer Todd Edward Ivins

**A**ssassins is one of Stephen Sondheim’s most controversial musicals. When it premiered, audiences criticized the musical for celebrating assassins. Rather than celebrating them, however, Sondheim’s score holds a mirror up to the country that produced these people. In America, we are told that our dreams not only can come true, but should come true. *Assassins*’s provocative opening number, “Everybody’s Got the Right,” boldly asks how disillusionment with the perceived failures of the American dream can drive a person so far as to kill a President.

The idea for *Assassins* came from a script by Charles Gilbert that wove actual newspaper accounts, diary entries, and poems from real American assassins into a narrative. In 1979, Sondheim read Gilbert’s script, and ten years later

brought up the idea of a musical based on the real-life accounts of assassins to his collaborator, John Weidman. With permission from Charles Gilbert, Sondheim and Weidman began work on a musical about assassins.

More than thirteen people have tried to assassinate the President of the United States, and four have succeeded. *Assassins* is a character-driven piece, propelled by historical individuals and their desires, instead of the idea of assassination. What is the journey that takes someone from anger and hate to the extreme of trying to kill someone? What is it about America that nurtures these people?

In an interview, book writer John Weidman remarked, “what the show asks the audience to do is to spend some time with these people and perhaps to discover as the show goes along that their feelings about them are at any rate more complicated than the feelings that they had when they came into the theater.”

Who were these people before they became assassins? John Hinckley was someone before he became, “John Hinckley, Assassin.” *Assassins* argues that they look scarily like people we know.

In *Assassins*, America is turned inside out. A merge between a revue and a book musical, the *Assassins* score is a panorama of American music, including folk ballads, barbershop quartets, ceremonial marches, and musical comedy styles. The score turns these staples of American music on their heads. For example, Sondheim uses variations on “Hail to the Chief” to symbolize the act of assassination instead of respect for

“The idea that people from different eras would have scenes together was exciting. I loved the notion that John Wilkes Booth could talk with somebody who lived 50 years after he died. Once the barriers are down, you can allow yourself to cross eras and find parallels and contrasts.”

– Stephen Sondheim

Interviewed in “Sondheim’s Assassins: Insane Realities of History,” New York Times, 1991.

“The plan was that the piece would be built around character, around people who had something in common. They were entirely different people, but they were motivated by a similar kind of passion.”

– Stephen Sondheim

Interviewed in “Sondheim’s Assassins: Insane Realities of History,” New York Times, 1991.



Sarah Litzsinger as Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme with Caroline O’Connor as Sara Jane Moore in the background.



# “EVERYBODY’S GOT THE RIGHT” Cont.

“Myths and historical stories are passed down from generation to generation primarily through tales and through songs. Of course, what happens is that history gets simplified and perhaps prejudicially pushed in one direction or another and often through the use of folk songs. What we know is passed down through story and song.”

– Stephen Sondheim  
Interviewed in “Sondheim’s Assassins: Insane Realities of History,” New York Times, 1991.

the President. The character of the Balladeer embodies the optimism of American folk music, a sharp contrast to the disillusioned viewpoints of the assassins. In the climatic moment of the score, “Another National Anthem,” the assassins confront the optimistic Balladeer with their own sinister story of America.

The contrast between American optimism and the disillusioned assassins is central to the musical. When the foundation

of the American dream tells people they have the right to be happy, what happens when people cannot achieve what they feel they have been promised?

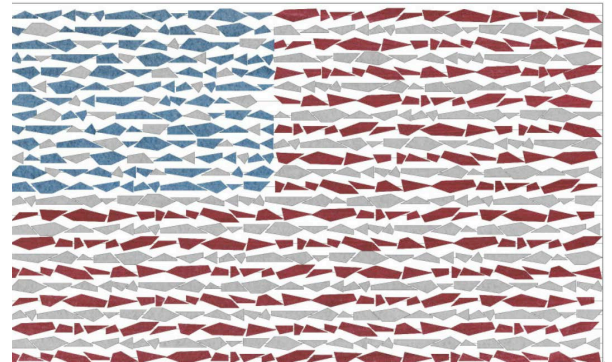
In its early productions, *Assassins* met mixed reviews. Its controversial 1990 premiere at Playwrights Horizons in New York shocked audiences with its blunt and macabre look at American assassins. After a series of U.S. regional and UK productions (in which Sondheim and Weidman added the number, “Something Just Broke,” to give voice to the effect of assassinations on the rest of the country), Roundabout Theatre Company scheduled *Assassins* for their 2001 season. After the events of September 11th, 2001, the theater cancelled the production due to the difficulty of the material for a country reeling from the September 11th attacks. Roundabout eventually gave the musical its Broadway debut in 2004 with a cast that included Neil Patrick Harris and Milwaukee Rep Associate Artist Mark Kudisch. The Broadway revival was a success with both critics and audiences, winning five Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical.

“When John [Weidman] was seventeen, President Kennedy was assassinated; that death was his first real experience of loss, a loss he found devastating and bewildering. How could one inconsequential angry little man cause such universal grief and anguish? More important, why would he? That’s what *Assassins* is about.”

– Stephen Sondheim in *Look, I Made a Hat*



Sarah Litzinger as Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme and Evan Harrington as John Hinckley



A design for the large United States flag made of mirror shards, used in Milwaukee Rep’s production of *Assassins*. Design by Set Designer Todd Edward Ivins

Mark Clements, Milwaukee Rep Artistic Director and director of *Assassins*, argues that *Assassins* is Stephen Sondheim’s most important work. It does not offer up answers, but uses satire and music to put the questions into the conversation. Clements directed the first UK regional production of *Assassins* in 1995. Exploring it a second time, he has assembled an accomplished design team and a talented cast including designers and actors familiar to The Rep, as well as some new faces. The production team explores the intersections of character and time in the world of an abandoned fairground, a “waiting room to hell,” filled with the residue of the American dream, examining the history of a country in which people are told “Everybody’s Got the Right” to be happy.

# SYNOPSIS

**A**ssassins tells the stories of nine people who assassinated or attempted to assassinate the President of the United States. The musical moves fluidly through time and place to imagine meetings between these individuals.

The play begins in a fairground shooting gallery where the Proprietor offers prizes for killing a president. Assassins from different time periods (Leon Czolgosz, John Hinckley, Charles Guiteau, Giuseppe Zangara, Samuel Byck, Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme, and Sara Jane Moore), enter and purchase guns. John Wilkes Booth enters last as ammunition is distributed. A voice announces President Abraham Lincoln’s arrival. Booth runs offstage and a shot rings out.

The Balladeer sings John Wilkes Booth’s story as Booth tries frantically to rationalize the murder in his diary. The Balladeer interjects that Booth’s motives had more to do with his failure as an actor than any ideals, but Booth begs him to tell a different story. Pursued by Union soldiers, Booth is shot.

In the next scene, Booth, Czolgosz, Hinckley, Zangara, and Guiteau gather together in a bar. Byck enters, looking for President Richard Nixon. Guiteau toasts the Presidency of the United States, “an office which by its mere existence reassures us that the possibilities of life are limitless.” Zangara complains about his stomach pains, and Booth suggests he fix them by shooting President Roosevelt. Hinckley almost breaks a beer bottle and Czolgosz flies into a rage, describing the horrors of the bottle factory in which he works, and how he has been burned many times making a bottle like the one Hinckley almost shattered.

Later, a radio reports that Zangara tried to assassinate President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Five bystanders are interviewed, each one claiming to have saved the President. From his electric chair, Zangara sings that he doesn’t care who he killed as long as it was one of the men who control the money. He says he is an “American nothing.” Outraged that there are no photographers at his execution, Zangara is electrocuted.

At a rally in Chicago in 1901, Leon Czolgosz listens to a speech from anarchist Emma Goldman. He introduces himself and declares his love for her, but she tells him to redirect his passion to the fight for social justice.

Squeaky Fromme and Sara Jane Moore, the two female assassins, meet on a park bench. Fromme smokes a joint and declares herself the lover and slave of mass murderer Charles Manson. Moore, carrying a large purse and a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken, tells Fromme that she used to be an informant for the FBI, has been a CPA, has had five husbands and three children, and has suffered from amnesia. The picture of Colonel Sanders on the KFC bucket reminds Moore of her father. Fromme teaches Moore to give Colonel Sanders the “evil eye” to try and kill him. They laugh while they shoot the KFC bucket with their pistols.

Czolgosz enters, reflecting on how many men it takes to make a gun. Booth,



Lee E. Ernst as Samuel Byck, Emily Berman and Jon Daly as the Proprietor



JOHN WILKES BOOTH  
ASSASSINS  
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER 2018



CHARLES J. GUITEAU  
ASSASSINS  
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER 2018



LEON CZOLGOSZ  
ASSASSINS  
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER 2018



SAMUEL BYCK  
ASSASSINS  
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER 2018



# SYNOPSIS Cont.

Guiteau, and Moore join him in a barbershop quartet in which they point out the power of one gun to change the world. Czolgosz decides that his gun will claim one more victim: the President. At the 1901 Pan American Exposition, Czolgosz waits in line to shake President McKinley's hand. When Czolgosz reaches McKinley, he shoots him.

Samuel Byck sits in his home, wearing an old Santa suit. Byck talks into a tape recorder, recording a message to composer Leonard Bernstein. He tells Bernstein that he can save the world by writing more love songs and then accuses Bernstein of ignoring him, just as other celebrities have. Squeaky Fromme sneaks up on John Hinckley as he serenades a picture of a girl with his guitar. Fromme asks about the girl in the picture, and Hinckley gets defensive until finally Fromme realizes his "girlfriend" is actress Jodie Foster. Hinckley sings of his love for Foster and Fromme sings of her love for Charles Manson.

At a train station, Charles Guiteau approaches President James Garfield and asks for the position of Ambassador to France. When he is mocked, he shoots. Later, about to be hanged, Guiteau sings a poem he wrote, "I Am Going to the Lordy." The Balladeer describes his trial and execution as Guiteau dances to the gallows, singing.



Sarah Litzsinger as Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme  
with Caroline O'Connor as Sara Jane Moore

The next scene discovers Sara Jane Moore, having just accidentally shot her dog. Her nine-year-old son enters whining and yelling. Squeaky Fromme gives the kid the fifty cents he is asking for and he runs out. The women prepare their plan to assassinate President Gerald Ford, but Moore drops all of her bullets. Ford enters and helps her collect them. As he leaves, Fromme tries to shoot him but fails.

Driving to the airport to hijack a plane, Samuel Byck records a message to President Richard Nixon, announcing that killing the President is the only solution to America's problems.

The assassins reunite and demand their prize from the Proprietor. The Balladeer appears and tells them that shooting the President was never the solution. The assassins sing "Another National Anthem," a national anthem for those who will never achieve the American Dream.

In a storeroom of the Texas School Book Depository, Lee Harvey Oswald prepares to kill himself. Booth appears and tells Oswald that killing the President of the United States is a better solution to his problems than suicide. With the other assassins, Booth tells Oswald that by joining them he will make people care about him. The assassins beg him to kill the President so that their own acts can come alive again, so they will not become historical footnotes, and so that they can be a collective force of history. As the assassins sing, Oswald stands at a window. President Kennedy's motorcade passes, and Oswald shoots. The scene shifts to several average Americans remembering where they were when the President was shot. In the show's final moments, the assassins reappear, united, and restate their motives.



GIUSEPPE TARGARA  
ASSASSINS  
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER 2012



SARA JANE MOORE  
ASSASSINS  
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER 2012

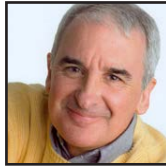


LYNETTE "SQUEAKY" FROMME  
ASSASSINS  
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER 2012

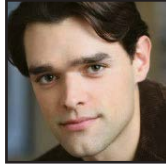
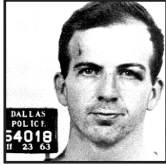


JOHN HINCKLEY  
ASSASSINS  
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER 2012

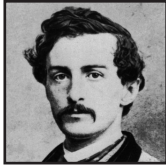
# CHARACTERS



Proprietor  
**Jon Daly**



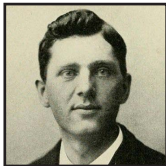
Balladeer/  
Lee Harvey Oswald  
**Chris Peluso**



John Wilkes Booth  
**Adam Monley**



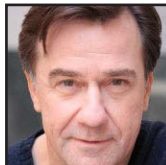
Charles Guiteau  
**Mark Price**



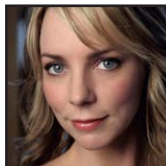
Leon Czolgosz  
**Steve French**



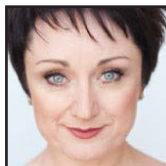
Giuseppe Zangara  
**Brian Sills**



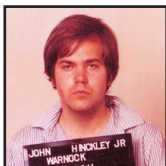
Samuel Byck  
**Lee Ernst**



Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme  
**Sarah Litzsinger**



Sara Jane Moore  
**Caroline O'Connor**



John Hinckley  
**Evan Harrington**

"I've often been asked to name my favorite show among the ones I've written music and lyrics for and, like most authors, my reply has been the standard one: I have different favorites, each for different reasons. But if I were asked to name the show that comes closest to my expectations for it, the answer would be *Assassins*. Certainly, John's book does. As to my own contribution, in every show I've written there are things in the score I wish I could have fixed at the time but didn't know how to, or in hindsight don't have the patience to return to. *Assassins* has only one moment I'd like to improve... Otherwise, as far as I'm concerned, the show is perfect. Immodest that may sound, but I'm ready to argue with anybody."

– Stephen Sondheim in *Look, I Made a Hat*

## Chorus

**Melissa Joy Hart**  
**Luke Brotherhood**  
**Jonathan Altman**  
**Kelley Faulkner**  
**Ray Jivoff**  
**Alex Keiper**  
**J.R. Yancher**

## Ensemble

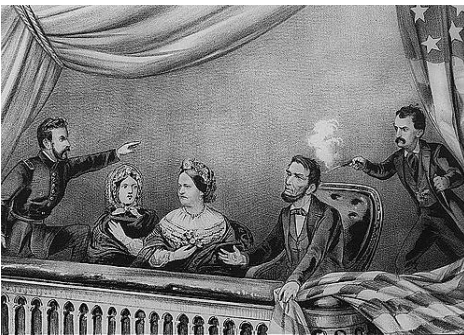
**Emily Berman**  
**Lamar Jefferson**  
**Toni Martin**  
**Jessi Noel**  
**Tyrone Phillips**  
**Jess Prichard**  
**Jamie Rezanour**  
**Teddy Spencer**  
**Bri Sudia**  
**Trequon Tate**  
**Mercedes White**



John Wilkes Booth

**John Wilkes Booth** (1838-1865), worked as an actor throughout the Civil War. Born into a theatrical family, he showed excellent early potential on stage, but his career suffered from his emotional instability and his difficulty accepting his brother Edwin's success as the foremost actor of the day.

Booth, a strong supporter of the Southern cause, frequently spoke out about his hatred of President Lincoln. By 1864, Booth had recruited several co-conspirators and held meetings to plan the abduction of Lincoln. After several failed attempts, the group resolved to kill the president and his cabinet, hoping the assassinations would save the South from defeat. Although Robert E. Lee surrendered his troops a few days before the assassination, Booth believed that the war was not over because a few Confederate armies were still fighting.



"Lincoln: at Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C., April 14th, 1865"

## The Assassination

On the morning of April 14, 1865, Booth heard that the President and Mrs. Lincoln would be attending the play *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theater that evening. Booth made plans for the

assassination and for his escape.

That evening, as the play progressed, Booth snuck into Lincoln's balcony box and shot him in the back of the head. He then jumped to the stage and shouted, "Sic semper tyrannis," or "thus always to tyrants." A doctor in the audience rushed to Lincoln, and a group of men carried the President across the street to Peterson's Boarding House, where he died at 7:22 the next morning.

In the company of co-conspirator David Herold, Booth escaped on horseback evading his pursuers for twelve days. At some point during his flight, Booth broke his leg. On April 26th, Union forces found Booth and Herold in a barn in rural Virginia, and threatened to set fire to the barn unless they surrendered. Herold immediately gave himself up but Booth refused. A shot rang out, fatally wounding the assassin.

## The President: Abraham Lincoln

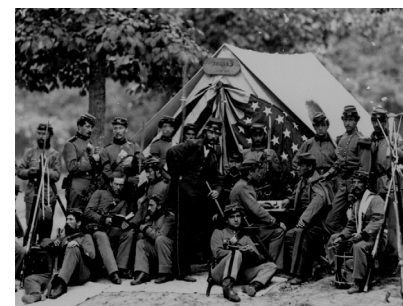
Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. Considered one of the nation's greatest Presidents, he led the country through the Civil War, preserving the Union while ending slavery.



Abraham Lincoln

## Historical Context: The Civil War

After decades of tension between the Northern and Southern states over states' rights and federal authority, including the issue of slavery, the Civil War began in 1861. For the next four years, the United States would suffer the bloodiest war fought on American soil. Confederate leader Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865. On April 26, twelve days after Lincoln's assassination, the final Southern troops surrendered, ending the Civil War.



Engineers of the 8th N.Y. State Militia, 1861.

For further resources on John Wilkes Booth, go to:  
<http://www.milwaukeeep.com/season/assassins.html>

**"I did it to bring down the government of Abraham Lincoln and to avenge the ravaged South."**

– John Wilkes Booth, *Assassins*





Charles Guiteau

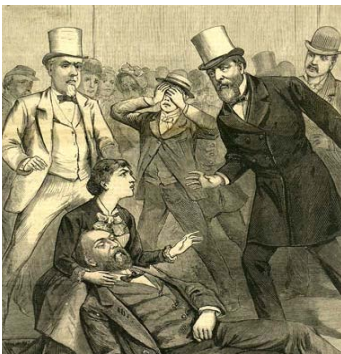
**Charles Guiteau** (1841-1882), a theologian, lawyer, and politician, successfully assassinated President James Garfield in 1881.

Guiteau flitted from job to job, working as a clerk, a lawyer, and a preacher. Destitute for most of his life, he subsisted on the generosity of his sister.

Although the jury rejected the insanity plea at his trial, most historians and medical professionals believe that Guiteau was insane.

After his failed careers in law and theology, Guiteau turned to politics. Stationing himself outside the Republican headquarters in New York City, he wrote a speech, entitled “Garfield vs. Hancock,” in support of Presidential candidate James Garfield. While he never delivered the speech in a public setting, he distributed copies throughout New York and believed the speech to be the cause of Garfield’s victory.

Assuming that he should be awarded a diplomatic post for his assistance, Guiteau loitered around Republican headquarters and then traveled to Washington in March of 1881 after Garfield’s inauguration. He repeatedly asked members of the Garfield administration for the Ambassadorship to France. On May 13, he was banned from the White House waiting room. In mid-May, 1881, Guiteau conceived the idea to “remove” the president and wrote letters on the subject.



A contemporary depiction of the Garfield assassination.

## The Assassination

Guiteau shot Garfield in the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station on July 2, 1881. Guiteau’s first shot grazed the President’s shoulder but the next shot hit him in the back. Police quickly arrested Guiteau and took him to the nearby police station.

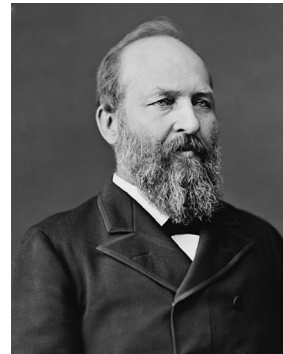
Garfield was carried back to the White House. Doctors believed he would not survive the night, but by morning they hoped for recovery. Unable to find the bullet, doctors probed the wound with unsterilized instruments, leading to infection. Alexander Graham

Bell invented a metal detector to help find the bullet, but due to Garfield’s metal bed, the device proved useless. While in increasingly poor health, Garfield survived until September, when he died of infection from the wound.

At his trial that November, Guiteau’s strange behavior made national headlines. He argued with his own defense team and formatted his testimony in epic poems. The trial was one of the first high-profile cases to consider the insanity defense. However, the jury dismissed this defense and found Guiteau guilty. He was hanged on June 30, 1882. At the execution, he danced to the gallows, shook the hand of his executioner, and recited his final poem, “I am Going to the Lordy.”

## The President: James A. Garfield

James A. Garfield, the 20th President of the United States, fought to establish a civil service of career federal employees, rather than relying on the previous “spoils” system in which elected officials granted jobs to political supporters. Congress passed the Pendleton Civil Service Act in his memory. Garfield also built up the U.S. Navy, and fought corruption in the U.S. Post Office.



James Garfield

## Historical Context: The Spoils System

After Andrew Jackson’s election in 1828, Jackson replaced many long-term federal government employees with personal friends of his and his supporters. After Jacksonian Senator William Marcy proclaimed, “To the victor belongs the spoils,” the system of rewarding one’s supporters with government positions became known as the “spoils system.” This system was still in place to some extent in 1881, and Guiteau argued that he should be named Ambassador to France because he supported Garfield’s election.

*For further resources on Charles Guiteau, go to:*

<http://www.milwaukeeep.com/season/assassins.html>

**“I did it because they said I’d be Ambassador to France!”**

**– Charles Guiteau, Assassins**

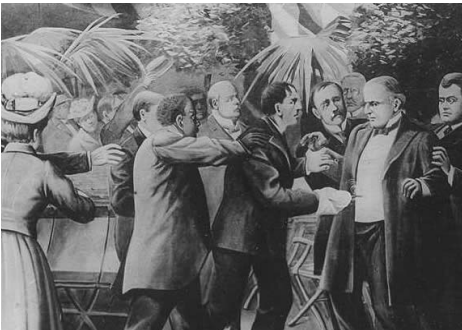


Leon Czolgosz

**Leon Czolgosz** (1873-1901), the son of Polish Catholic immigrants, spent most of his life working in factories. Enraged at the rich and powerful's exploitation of the poor, Czolgosz became interested in anarchism. He attended lectures and heard anarchist Emma Goldman speak in Cleveland on May 6, 1901.

Fascinated with Goldman's beliefs, Czolgosz followed her to Chicago and spoke to her as she was on her way to the train station. As Czolgosz's interest in anarchy deepened, he decided to follow the example of Gaetano Bresci, who assassinated King Umberto I of Italy in July, 1900. Czolgosz shot President McKinley twice at close range in Buffalo, New York, on September 3, 1901.

## The Assassination



A contemporary depiction of the assassination.

President William McKinley was shaking hands with the public during a reception at the Temple of Music Pavilion at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, when the assassination occurred.

When the President reached to shake Leon Czolgosz's hand, Czolgosz shot him twice. The first bullet grazed the President but the other one lodged in his abdomen.

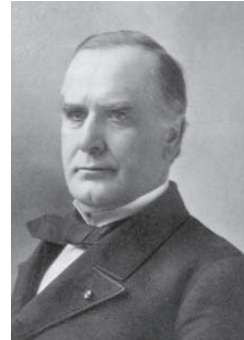
Eight days after being shot, President McKinley died of a gangrene infection to the wound. After McKinley's assassination, Congress passed legislation officially charging the Secret Service with the protection of the President.

Leon Czolgosz went on trial nine days after the President passed away, and was sentenced to

death. Before being executed by electric chair on October 20, 1901, Czolgosz is quoted as saying, "I killed the President because he was the enemy of the good people! I did it for the help of the good people, the working men of all countries!"

## The President: William McKinley

President McKinley, the 25th President of the United States, led the nation to victory in the Spanish-American War, raised protective tariffs to promote American industry, and maintained the gold standard for U.S. currency.



William McKinley

## Historical Context: Emma Goldman and the Anarchist Movement

Emma Goldman, a Russian immigrant to the United States, was a well-known writer, speaker, and anarchist leader. Over the course of her life, she argued against conscription, supported birth control, and encouraged Americans to overthrow their leaders as a means to end the plight of the working class. After McKinley's assassination, police arrested Goldman on charges of planning the murder, but prosecutors could find no evidence linking Goldman to the attack.



Emma Goldman

For further resources on Leon Czolgosz, go to:  
<http://www.milwaukeeep.com/season/assassins.html>

**"I did it because it is wrong for one man  
to have so much service when other men  
have none..."**

**—Leon Czolgosz, Assassins**





Giuseppe Zangara

**Giuseppe Zangara** (1900-1933), an immigrant from Italy, worked for most of his life as a bricklayer and blamed President Herbert Hoover for the lack of work during the Great Depression. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt beat Hoover in the Presidential election,

Zangara's hatred carried over to the new President-elect. He suffered from severe abdominal pains, and believed they were the fault of the U.S. Government.

## The Assassination Attempt



Anton Cermak after being shot by Giuseppe Zangara.

Zangara, armed with a .32-caliber pistol, attempted to shoot the President. After the first shot, an onlooker grabbed his arm and Zangara fired four more shots wildly in the crowd. Zangara's shots did not reach the President, but he fatally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak and wounded five others.

After the attempted assassination, Zangara declared that he felt no remorse for his actions, claiming he would kill "all capitalists, presidents, and kings." He was sentenced to death by electric chair. In his final moments, enraged when he learned there would be no newsreel coverage of his death, he shouted,

"Goodbye, adieu to the world, go ahead, push the button!"

## The President-Elect: Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Roosevelt's inauguration took place on March 4, 1933. As President, Roosevelt led the United States through The Great Depression and World War II and his "New Deal" contributed to the recovery of the United States economy. He is the only American president elected to more than two terms.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

## Historical Context: The Great Depression

The stock market crash in October of 1929 signaled the beginning of The Great Depression. The crash wiped out 40 percent of the value of common stock in the United States. Confidence in the economy evaporated, businesses closed, factories shut down, and banks failed. By 1932, one out of every four Americans was unemployed.

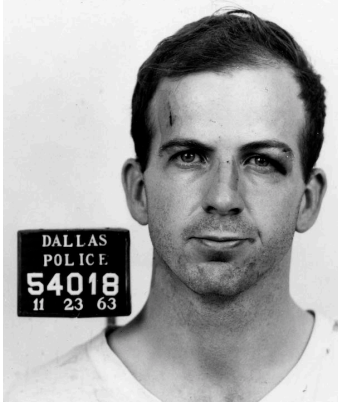


Unemployed men wait in a food line.

For further resources on Giuseppe Zangara, go to:  
<http://www.milwaukeeep.com/season/assassins.html>

**"I did it 'cause the bosses  
made my belly burn."**

– Giuseppe Zangara, *Assassins*



Lee Harvey Oswald

**Lee Harvey Oswald** (1939-1963) was born in New Orleans in 1939. His father died before he was born, and he had a contentious relationship with his mother. He dropped out of school in the 10th grade and enlisted as a Marine at age 17.

A self-proclaimed Marxist, Oswald studied Russian and openly advocated Marxism to his fellow Marines. In 1959, Oswald traveled to Russia and defected to the Soviet Union. When the Soviets refused to give him asylum, Oswald attempted suicide and ended up in a psychiatric ward in Moscow. The Soviet national security agency, the KGB, reversed its decision and allowed Oswald to stay. While in the Soviet Union, Oswald married Marina Nikolayevna Prusakova, and they had their first child, June. In 1962, unhappy with life in the Soviet Union, Oswald applied to return to the United States.

The family moved to Texas, and Oswald's interest in politics grew. In April of 1963, Oswald attempted to assassinate Ret. General Edwin Walker, shooting a bullet through the window of Walker's study, narrowly missing him. Oswald immediately confessed the act to his wife, but not publicly. The Walker case would not be resolved until after the Kennedy assassination. After attempting to defect yet again at the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City, Oswald returned to Dallas and got a job at the Texas School Book Depository in October, 1963. His wife gave birth to their second child, Rachel, a few days later.

## The Assassination

On November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald left home early in the morning carrying an oblong package wrapped in brown paper. He arrived at work at the Depository, and spent the morning filling book orders.

At noon, Oswald's co-workers left for lunch. Around 12:30pm, President John F. Kennedy's motorcade entered Dealey Plaza. As the

President's car passed the Depository, the President and Texas Governor John Connally were shot. The President's car sped to a nearby hospital, but at 1:00pm doctors declared the President dead. Governor Connally would eventually recover.

Police arrested Oswald at 1:40pm after the shooting of Police Officer J.D. Tippitt in the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas. Police charged Oswald with the murders of Tippitt and Kennedy later that day. Two days later, as police were transferring Oswald to the county jail, Jack Ruby shot Oswald in front of live television cameras. Oswald never regained consciousness after the shooting and died a little over an hour later. Many conspiracy theories remain about Kennedy's assassination, though numerous government investigations have concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

## The President: John F. Kennedy

President John F. Kennedy led the U.S. through critical events in the Cold War: the Berlin Crisis, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Domestically, Kennedy fought to enforce court decisions on Civil Rights. Though passed after his assassination, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is his legacy.



John F. Kennedy

## Historical Context: The Cold War

From the end of World War II in 1945 to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States and the Soviet Union were in a Cold War. The Cold War pitted communism against capitalism. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States engaged in an arms race and both countries built a nuclear arsenal capable of mutually-assured destruction.

For further resources on Lee Harvey Oswald, go to:  
<http://www.milwaukeeep.com/season/assassins.html>

**"People will hate me."**  
—Lee Harvey Oswald, *Assassins*





Samuel Byck

**Samuel Byck** (1930-1974), grew up in South Philadelphia and dropped out of high school in the ninth grade to support his family. He served briefly in the US Army from 1954 to 1956. After leaving the military, Byck married and had four children. He suffered from severe depression, checking

himself into a mental hospital after his wife divorced him in 1972.

He believed in government conspiracies to oppress the poor and threatened President Richard Nixon, as well as sent ranting tape recordings to public figures such as Senator Abraham Ribicoff and composer Leonard Bernstein. Byck's strange behavior included protesting in front of the White House on Christmas Eve, 1973, dressed in a Santa Claus suit.

In early 1974, Byck began to plan his assassination attempt. He stole a revolver and built a bomb out of gasoline. Thinking he would be considered a hero, Byck made many recordings outlining his plans and the motives for his actions.

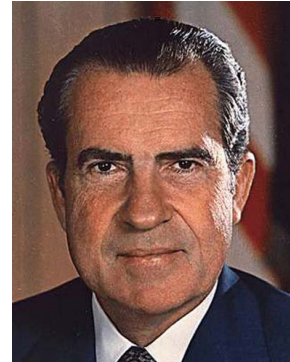
## The Assassination Attempt

On February 22, 1974, Byck drove to the Baltimore/Washington International Airport intending to hijack a commercial jetliner and crash it into the White House with President Nixon inside. When Byck arrived at the airport, he stormed aboard a plane and demanded to take off. A standoff with police resulted in police officers wounding Byck and gaining entry to the plane, though Byck committed suicide by shooting himself in the head before police could board the plane. The standoff left a police officer and a pilot dead, as well as another pilot seriously injured.

Nixon's schedule remained unaffected by the assassination attempt.

## The President: Richard Nixon

President Richard Nixon initially escalated the war in Vietnam, but subsequently scaled back U.S. involvement there in 1973. He opened up diplomatic relationships between the United States and China during his landmark visit in 1972. Domestically, he began the federal government's fights against cancer and drugs, imposed wage and price controls, and enforced the desegregation of Southern schools. During his second term, continuing revelations about the Watergate scandal led to his resignation on August 9, 1974.



Richard Nixon

## Historical Context: The Watergate Scandal

Watergate, a political scandal in the 1970s, stemmed from the June 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters. A Nixon fundraising group, the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, funded the break-in. After Nixon's re-election, evidence emerged of the involvement of high-level administration officials in the break-in, and Nixon's personal involvement in the cover-up.



The Watergate Office Complex

For further resources on Samuel Byck, go to:  
<http://www.milwaukeeep.com/season/assassins.html>

**"I did it to make people listen."**  
– Samuel Byck, *Assassins*

# LYNETTE “SQUEAKY” FROMME and SARA JANE MOORE

# 1975



Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme

**Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme** (b. 1948), attended high school in a Los Angeles suburb. Despite increasing drug use and slipping grades, Fromme managed to graduate in 1966 and attended junior college for a few months before dropping out.

After an argument with her father left her homeless, in 1967 Fromme traveled to Venice Beach, California, suffering from depression. There she met Charles Manson, a cult leader recently released from prison. Captivated by Manson, Fromme traveled with him and his other

followers for two years. When police charged Charles Manson and others of the Manson “family” for the murders of Sharon Tate and Leno and Rosemary LaBianca, Fromme camped with other Manson followers outside the trial.

She was briefly held in prison in relation to a series of murders in Stockton, California, but was released after two and a half months due to lack of evidence; the other Manson “family” members involved were convicted.

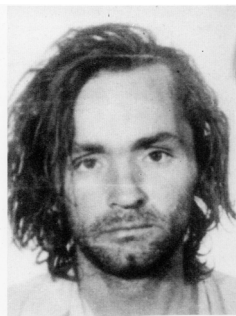
## The Assassination Attempt

Under the pretense of pleading for the plight of the California redwoods, Fromme, dressed in a nun-like robe, went to Capital Park in Sacramento, California, on September 5, 1975. As President Gerald Ford left the nearby Senator Hotel, Fromme pointed a gun at him but, while the gun had four rounds in it, the firing chamber was empty. A Secret Service agent immediately restrained Fromme. Later, Fromme told the press she had deliberately ejected the cartridge. A cartridge was found later in her bathroom.

After a lengthy trial, Fromme was convicted of attempted assassination of the President. She was sentenced to life in prison, but released on parole in 2009.

## Historical Context: Charles Manson

Charles Manson led the “Manson Family,” a commune in California in the late 1960s. The “Manson Family” consisted of anywhere between ten and fifty people at a time, mostly women who thought of themselves as servants to Manson and the other men in the group.



Charles Manson

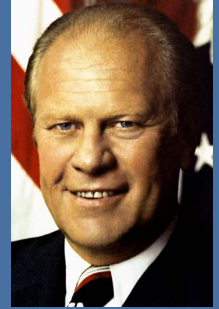
Manson believed an apocalyptic race war was beginning, which he called “Helter Skelter” after a Beatles song of the same name. He and his followers believed that specific murders would start the war, and committed a series of murders in 1969. Manson was convicted of conspiracy to commit the murders of Sharon Tate and Leno and Rosemary LaBianca, murders committed by members of the “Manson Family” under his instruction. He was sentenced to death, but his sentence was changed to life imprisonment with a change in California state law. He is currently incarcerated at Corcoran State Prison.

**“I did it to make them listen to Charlie...”**

– Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme, *Assassins*

## The President: Gerald Ford

President Gerald Ford became President upon Richard Nixon’s resignation on August 9, 1974. As President, he presided over the end of United States involvement in Indochina, following the fall of South Vietnam and Cambodia in 1975.



Gerald Ford

**Sara Jane Moore** (b. 1930), a Charleston, West Virginia native, attended nursing school, worked as an accountant, divorced five times, and had four children before turning to revolutionary politics.

Moore worked as a bookkeeper for People in Need, an organization with connections to the Symbionese Liberation Army, a left-wing radical group. During this time, Sara Jane Moore served as an FBI informant.



Sarah Jane Moore

## The Assassination Attempt

Seventeen days after Squeaky Fromme’s attempt, Moore attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford outside the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, California, shooting at him from about 40 feet away and narrowly missing. The bullet ricocheted off the entrance to the hotel and slightly injured a bystander. As she raised her arm to fire again, an ex-Marine in the crowd pulled her to the ground.

Moore had been previously evaluated by the Secret Service, but they decided she presented no danger to President Ford.

She pleaded guilty to attempted assassination and was sentenced to life. She was released from prison on December 31, 2007, at the age of 77.

There are no known connections between Sara Jane Moore and Squeaky Fromme.

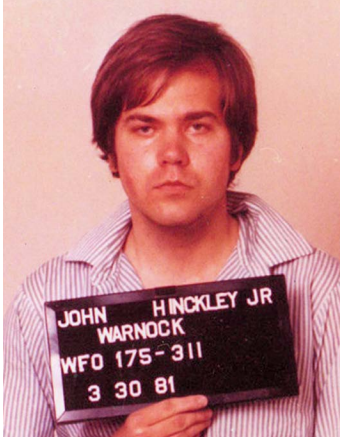
**“I did it so my friends would know where I was coming from...”**

– Sara Jane Moore, *Assassins*

For further resources on Lynette Fromme and Sara Jane Moore, go to

<http://www.milwaukeeep.com/season/assassins.html>





John Hinckley, Jr. in 1981

**John Hinckley** (b. 1955) grew up in Dallas, Texas. After an unsuccessful university experience, he moved to Los Angeles with the hope of becoming a songwriter. In letters to his parents, he pleaded for money and wrote of a fabricated girlfriend, Lynn Collins.

He saw the 1976 film, *Taxi Driver*, at least fifteen

times and developed an obsession with actress Jodie Foster, who appeared in the film. In *Taxi Driver*, the protagonist plans to assassinate a Presidential candidate. When Foster enrolled at Yale University, Hinckley moved to New Haven, Connecticut, with the hopes of gaining her affection. When she did not respond to repeated phone calls and messages slipped under her door, Hinckley's plans to get her attention grew more desperate, leading to plots of aircraft hijacking and suicide. He eventually decided to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, writing that the fame would help him achieve Foster's "respect and love."

## The Assassination Attempt



Officers rush to restrain John Hinckley, Jr. immediately after the shooting.

President Reagan, and went to the Washington Hilton where Reagan was scheduled to speak.

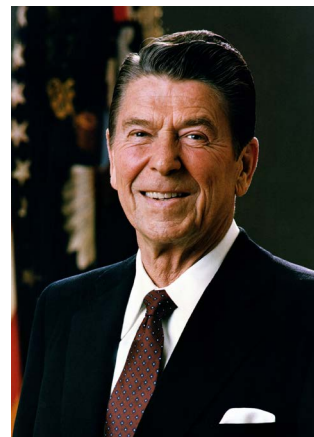
Outside the hotel, Hinckley stepped out of a crowd of reporters and fired six shots. The bullets struck Press Secretary James Brady in

the left temple, Police Officer Thomas Delahanty in the neck, Security Agent Timothy J. McCarthy in the stomach, and President Ronald Reagan in the left chest (after a bullet ricocheted off the presidential limousine). All shooting victims survived, although some sustained serious injuries.

Police immediately arrested Hinckley. At his trial, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity. He was confined to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he remains today.

## The President: Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, reduced government spending, cut taxes, took a hard line against labor unions, and ordered an invasion of Grenada. Reagan was President during the Iran-Contra scandal, and worked with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to bring an end to the Cold War.



Ronald Reagan

## Historical Context: Jodie Foster

Jodie Foster's first significant film role was at age 13 in the 1976 film *Taxi Driver*, for which she was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. After a highly successful child-acting career, Foster made a slow transition to adult acting roles, eventually becoming an award-winning star for her work as an adult, as well. Her film credits include: *The Accused* (1989); *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991); *Contact* (1997); and *Carnage* (2011).



Jodie Foster

For further resources on John Hinckley, go to:  
<http://www.milwaukeeRep.com/season/assassins.html>

**"I did it so she'd pay attention..."**  
– John Hinckley, *Assassins*

# OTHER AMERICAN ASSASSINS

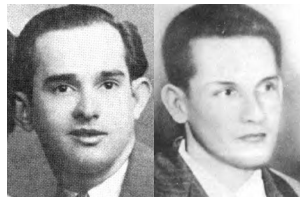
**Richard Lawrence** fired two shots at President Andrew Jackson in 1835. The gun misfired both times.



An illustration of the attempted assassination on Jackson.



**John Flammang Schrank** shot former President Theodore Roosevelt in 1912 at the Gilpatrick Hotel in Milwaukee. A 50-page speech folded in Roosevelt's pocket slowed the bullet. Roosevelt recovered, but the bullet remained lodged inside him for the rest of his life.



**Oscar Collazo and Grisello Torresola**, two Puerto Rican independence activists, attempted to assassinate President Harry Truman in 1950. Collazo and Torresola killed a White House policeman in the incident.



**Frank Eugene Corder** flew a small plane onto the White House lawn in 1994, allegedly trying to hit the White House. President Bill Clinton was not home at the time, so Corder's motives are unclear.



**Franciso Martin Duran** discharged a number of shots at the White House through a fence in 1994, thinking Clinton was standing in the group of men on the north lawn (Clinton was inside during the incident and unharmed). A group of nearby

tourists tackled Duran and no one was seriously injured in the incident.



**Robert Pickett** fired shots at the White House from outside the perimeter fence in 2001, while President George W. Bush was inside. After a ten-minute standoff, a Secret Service officer shot Pickett, resulting in an injury requiring hospital

attention. A court sentenced Pickett to three years imprisonment.



**Oscar Ortega-Hernandez** shot bullets at the White House in 2011. President Barack Obama was in Hawaii at the time. Ortega-Hernandez injured no one in the shooting but two bullets hit the White House, cracking a window.

As Sondheim recounts in *Look, I Made a Hat*, Sondheim and Weidman considered doing "a kaleidoscope revue of assassins through the ages," but realized they "had bitten off more assassins than [they] could chew." They narrowed the scope to American assassins and eventually decided to only include people who tried (in four cases successfully), to kill the president. When that idea still proved too populous, they omitted Richard Lawrence, whose delusional motivation was similar to Guiteau's, and omitted Oscar Collazo and Grisello Torresola because they had political motivations much like Booth. They also cut the character of John Flammang Schrank (who playwright Christopher Durang played in rehearsal), when his scenes were too lightweight for the play.

## Assassins mentions other non-presidential assassins.

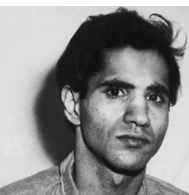
**Arthur Bremer**, born in Milwaukee, attempted to assassinate presidential candidate George Wallace after giving up on his original target, Richard Nixon, on May 15th, 1972. Bremer failed to kill Wallace, but left him paralyzed. His attempt was not politically motivated, but driven by his desire for infamy. He was sentenced to 53 years, and was released on parole in 2007 after 35 years of imprisonment.



**James Earl Ray** shot Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4th, 1968, sparking a worldwide manhunt and race riots across the country. He was eventually caught at a London airport and sentenced to 99 years imprisonment. He died in 1998.

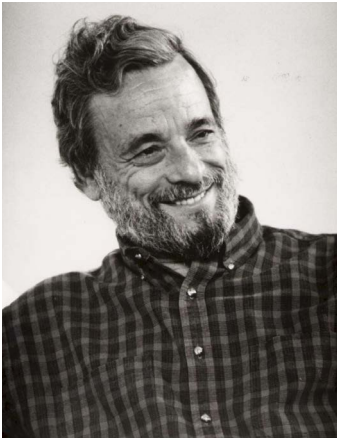


**Sirhan Sirhan** killed senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5th, 1968, because of Kennedy's support for the state of Israel. Sirhan Sirhan was born in Jerusalem and felt personally betrayed by Kennedy because of increasing Arab-Israeli conflicts. Sirhan was sentenced to life.





# STEPHEN SONDHEIN and JOHN WEIDMAN



Stephen Sondheim

**Stephen Joshua Sondheim** (Composer and Lyricist), is a major American composer and lyricist, credited by many as reinventing the modern stage musical. He was born in New York City and raised in New York and Pennsylvania. As a teenager, his neighbor was Oscar Hammerstein II, who became Sondheim's mentor. Sondheim

graduated from Williams College, where he received the Hutchinson Prize for Music Composition. After graduation, he studied music theory and composition with Milton Babbitt.

Stephen Sondheim's works have accumulated more than sixty individual and collaborative Tony Awards. "Sooner Or Later," from the film *Dick Tracy*, won the 1999 Academy Award for Best Song. Mr. Sondheim received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1984 for *Sunday in the Park with George*. In 1983, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which awarded him the Gold Medal for Music in 2006. He was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award in the 1993 Kennedy Center Honors. Mr. Sondheim is on the Council of the Dramatists Guild, the national association of playwrights, composers, and lyricists, having served as its President from 1973 to 1981. In 1981, he founded Young Playwrights, Inc., to develop and promote the work of American playwrights aged 18 years and younger.

**John Weidman** (Book), wrote the book for *Pacific Overtures*, a collaboration with Stephen Sondheim, in 1976. He also wrote the book for *Assassins* (1991), *Big* (1996), and *Contact* (2000). He co-wrote the new book for the 2002 revival of *Anything Goes*. He has been a staff writer for *Sesame Street*, for which he won several Emmy Awards, and is a former president of the Dramatists Guild of America.



John Weidman



Sondheim and Weidman at Roundabout Theater Company's celebration of Sondheim's 80th birthday.

## SONDHEIM'S MUSICALS

### AS COMPOSER AND LYRICIST:

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962)  
*Anyone Can Whistle* (1964)  
*Company* (1970)  
*Follies* (1971)  
*A Little Night Music* (1973)

*The Frogs* (1974)  
*Pacific Overtures* (1976)  
*Sweeney Todd* (1979)  
*Merrily We Roll Along* (1981)  
*Sunday in the Park with George* (1984)  
*Into the Woods* (1987)  
*Assassins* (1991)

*Passion* (1994)  
*Road Show* (2008)

### AS LYRICIST:

*West Side Story* (1957)  
*Gypsy* (1959)  
*Do I Hear a Waltz?* (1965)

# THEMES

## THE AMERICAN DREAM

The American Dream expresses the idea that every American has the opportunity to achieve his or her dreams. Set out in the Declaration of Independence are “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” the core components of the American Dream.

It is the promise of these “certain inalienable rights” to which the assassins in *Assassins* feel entitled, to which they fervently believe, and the acquisition of which leads them to rash, drastic actions.

The stories in America’s national psyche about the American Dream are of these people who, from nothing, built successful lives. Stories like turn-of-the-century industrialist Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant factory worker who became one of the richest men in America at the turn of the 20th Century, or current Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who celebrates his parents’ immigration from Cuba, promote the vision of the American Dream.

**“This is the land  
of opportunity.”**

–Charles Guiteau,  
*Assassins*



Adam Monley as John Wilkes Booth



Lee E. Ernst as Samuel Byck

**“Everybody’s got  
the right to their  
dreams...”**

–Proprietor, *Assassins*

### QUESTIONS

- How has the American Dream changed over time from the statement of the right to the “pursuit of happiness” in the Declaration of Independence?
- In *Assassins*, the assassins sing, “Everybody’s Got the Right to be Happy.” The founding documents of the United States state that American citizens have the right to the “pursuit of happiness.” In your opinion, does this right equal the right to achieve happiness or, rather, the right to the freedom to simply pursue it?



# ENTITLEMENT AND DISILLUSIONMENT

The assassins believe they are entitled to achieving the American Dream. It is this sense of entitlement that leads to their disillusionment with a country where their dreams have not come true.

The assassins live in an America they believe failed them. Without freedom, happiness, a living wage, or a voice, the assassins feel that the only way to achieve their dreams is the destruction of perhaps the most powerful symbol of the American Dream, the President of the United States.

In *Assassins*, Charles Guiteau, among others, looks to the Presidency of the United States as “an office which by its mere existence reassures us that the possibilities of life are limitless.” America is a country in which a man born in a one-room cabin in Illinois can become one of the country’s greatest presidents, and the son of Irish Catholic immigrants can become a famous actor and the President. But what happens to the people who cannot achieve this dream? In America, anyone can be president, but millions will not. Anyone should be able to own a home, but millions cannot. For the assassins in *Assassins*, this failed promise leads to a deep and bitter sense of disillusionment with the country and its ideals.

**“You can always get a prize...  
You can always get your dream...  
Sure, the Mailman  
won the lottery...”**

**–Assassins, *Assassins***

## QUESTIONS

- What influences the sense of entitlement that the assassins feel towards the American Dream?
- Some of the characters in *Assassins* speak of their working class frustrations. How do working conditions and class struggle influence Zangara and Czolgosz’s disillusionment with the American Dream?
- In “The Gun Song,” the assassins sing, “all you have to do is squeeze your little finger...You can change the world.” What does *Assassins* suggest about guns when they reach the hands of deeply disillusioned people?
- In *Assassins*, the American public labels Italian immigrant Giuseppe Zangara a “left-wing foreigner.” How does his background affect the way in which the public views his crime?
- The story of immigration is intrinsic to the story of the American Dream. Throughout history, there are stories of immigrants who achieved the American Dream (like Andrew Carnegie), and stories of immigrants who moved to America to find their lives potentially worse off than they were in their original country (like Italian Giuseppe Zangara), in *Assassins*. Do immigrants’ ideas about the American Dream differ from the ideas of people whose families have lived in the U.S. for many generations? Why do stories of the American Dream so often come back to immigration?
- *Assassins* features the only two women to have attempted to assassinate a President. Does the public view their crimes differently because they are women? How is the impact of their actions different? Their motivations? How does Sondheim use different musical styles to highlight their gender?

# SOMETHING JUST BROKE

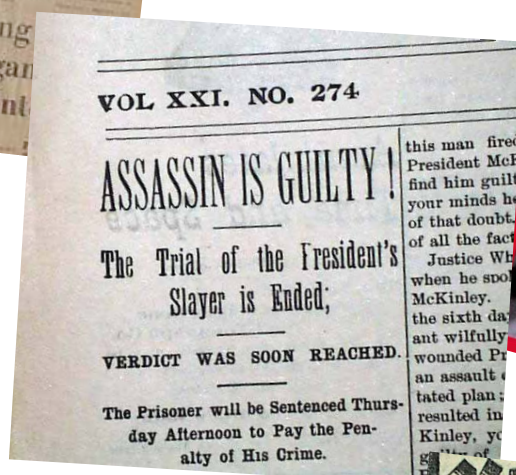
“‘Something Just Broke’ is a chilling acknowledgment that assassins do have an impact, that by pulling a trigger an individual can upset the course of history.”

- Ben Brantley in the 2004 New York Times review of Assassins at Roundabout Theatre Company



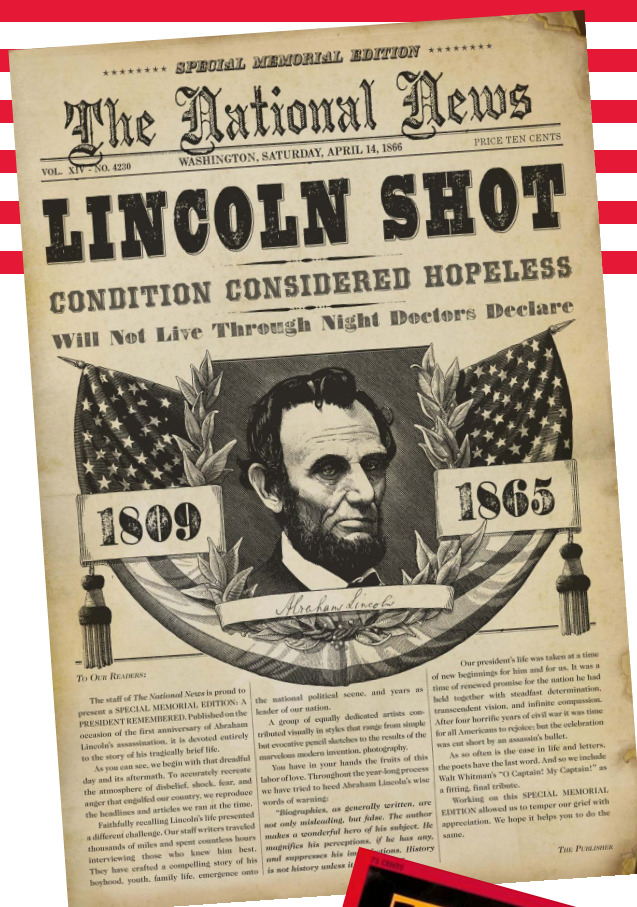
“For us the song was not only necessary but essential.”

- Stephen Sondheim in Look, I Made a Hat



“It became immediately clear that the missing song should deal with the nation’s shock at each of the assassinations – not just the news itself but the way the news was spread, the chain of grief, especially in the days when communication throughout the country was slow and sporadic.”

- Stephen Sondheim in Look, I Made a Hat





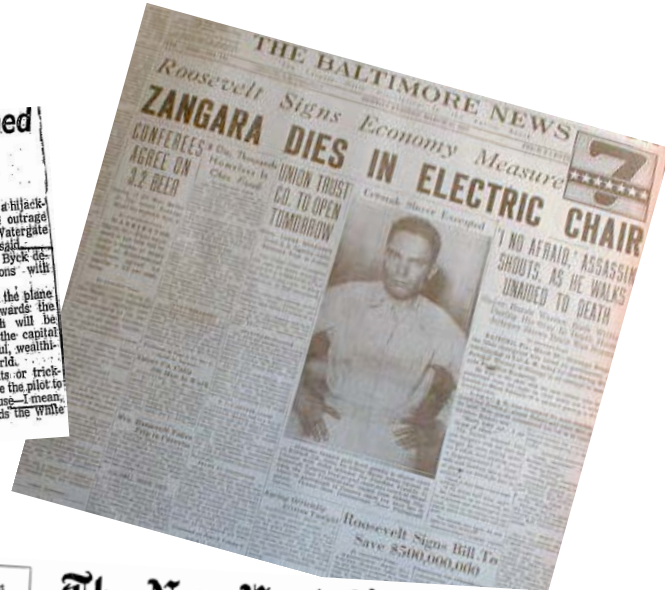
In the London production of *Assassins* at the Donmar Warehouse in 1992, Sondheim and Weidman added the song "Something Just Broke" to *Assassins*. The song explores the reaction of the American people shaken by the assassinations.

The ensemble of everyday Americans recounts where they were when they heard "the President's been shot." The song reminds the audience of the way in which assassinations change the country forever.



## Stain Hijacker Said To Have Planned To Crash Plane Into White House

Washington (U-P)—More than a month before he was shot to death in a bloody skyjacking attempt, Samuel Byck, 34, said he planned to crash his Delta Airlines plane into the White House, a Baltimore Post-Examiner columnist Jack Anderson disclosed last night. Mr. Anderson said Byck, a one-time fire salesman from Philadelphia, mailed him an hour-long recording of his grievances and intentions shortly before the incident at Baltimore Washington International Airport Friday. Authorities said Byck, 44, was shot and killed by a security guard and the plane crashed into the Washington Monument area. The hijacker was found in a bloody skyjacking attempt. The plane crashed into the Washington Monument area, and the hijacker was found in a bloody skyjacking attempt.



## The New York Times

### KENNEDY IS KILLED BY SNIPER AS HE RIDES IN CAR IN DALLAS; JOHNSON SWORN IN ON PLANE



Where were you at the time of the Kennedy assassination?

President John F. Kennedy's assassination shook the nation, and changed the country forever.

- If you remember November 22, 1963, tell a member of a younger generation your memory of the day.
- If you are too young to remember November 22, 1963, ask a member of an older generation what they remember of the Kennedy assassination.



# CREATING THE REP PRODUCTION

Scenic Designer Todd Ivins and Director Mark Clements began their conversation about the set with the idea of a carousel. The multi-layered wooden scaffolding of the set has an inner and outer revolve, allowing it to move into thousands of configurations. The set can be intimate or open depending on the scene.

*Assassins* uses more lights than any other production in the history of Milwaukee Rep. There are 3,048 lamps used in *Assassins*, including practical lights on the set and standard lighting equipment on the grid.

On either side of the proscenium hang pictures of the Presidents targeted by the assassins in the musical.



Production Photos by Michael Brosilow



Assassins is a musical and visual trip through American history. Within the scenic framework of an abandoned fairground, a “waiting room to hell,” the production takes the audience through many different moments in American history and imagined meetings between the assassins.

The Cast of *Assassins*



Prop Master Jim Guy, an expert in firearms for the stage, found exact or close historical replicas of each of the assassins' weapons. All the actors and crew are trained in firearm safety.

Old signs and broken pieces of a deserted carnival litter the set.

Costumes in *Assassins* are a trip through American history. Costume designer Alex Tecoma and the Milwaukee Rep costume shop worked to ensure that all of the costumes are true to the historical period, down to the last button.

# VISITING THE REP

Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Patty and Jay Baker Theater Complex is located in the Milwaukee Center downtown at the corner of Wells and Water Streets. The building was formerly the home of the Electric Railway and Light Company.



Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Photo by Michael Brosilow.

The Ticket Office is visible on the left upon entering the Wells Street doors. In the central rotunda is a large staircase which leads to The Rep's Quadracci Powerhouse theater and lobby.

## **THE REP VALUES YOUR SUPPORT:** Financial support enables The Rep to do more:

- Advance the art of theater with productions that inspire individuals and create community dialogue
- Provide a richer theater experience by hosting Rep In Depth, Talkbacks, and creating Play Guides to better inform our audiences about our productions
- Educate over 20,000 students at 200+ schools in the greater Milwaukee area with Rep Immersion Day experiences, student matinees, workshops, tours and by making connections with their school curriculum through classroom teaching programs such as Reading Residencies and Scriptworks
- Maintain our commitment to audiences with special needs through our Access Services that include American Sign Language interpreted productions, captioned theater, infrared listening systems and script synopses to ensure that theater at The Rep is accessible to all
- Educate the next generation of theater professionals with our Artistic Intern Program which gives newly degreed artists a chance to hone their skills at The Rep as they begin to pursue their theatrical careers

We value our supporters and partnerships and hope that you will help us to expand the ways The Rep has a positive impact on theater and on our Milwaukee Community.

**Donations can be made on our website at [www.MilwaukeeRep.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) or at 414-224-9490.**

## **Or feel free to directly contact one of the people listed below:**

### **CORPORATE OR FOUNDATION GIFTS**

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You can also contact Lisa Fulton, *Director of Marketing & Interim Director of Development*,  
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