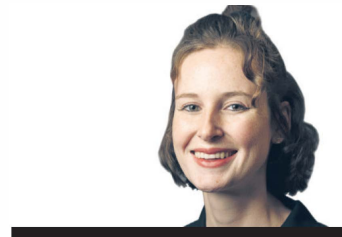


Backstage Pass



INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Musical Explanations Are at the Heart of 'Assassins'



THEATER REVIEW

By Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun

They're the hopeless, the lost, the exiled, the expatriates in their own country.

As Samuel Byck, who attempted to assassinate Richard Nixon, puts it, "No one listens."

Well, now the assassins finally get a chance to explain themselves.

On Wednesday, I attended The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol's production of Stephen

Sondheim and John Weidman's "Assassins," a musical that puts every person who assassinated or attempted to assassinate a U.S. president in one room, from Abraham Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth to Ronald Reagan's attempted assassin John Hinckley.

At the beginning of the show, they gather on a carnival-like set under eerie lighting and a general ambience that can only be described as the embodiment of broken American dreams.

The Proprietor, who is a bit like the ringmaster in this dark and abstract dimension, equips them all with a weapon and tells them that killing a president will solve all of their problems, which are mostly personal.

Samuel Byck wants someone to listen. Charles Guiteau wants to be the ambassador to France. John Hinckley wants to marry Jodie Foster. Giuseppe Zangara has a stomachache.

And there you have it. Now add the music of Sondheim, a Balladeer to tell their stories and the disjointed, yet present underlying messages

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"Assassins," now running at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol, is a musical that puts every person who assassinated or attempted to assassinate a U.S. president in one room.

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HOW DO I BUY TICKETS?

The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at its four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

All box office locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spanish Springs:
970 Del Mar Drive

Lake Sumter Landing: 1070 Canal St.

Brownwood: 2726 Brownwood Blvd.

Savannah Center:
1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd.



**Elias
Wygodny
plays John
Wilkes
Booth in
"Assassins"
at The Studio
Theatre Tierra
del Sol.**

Submitted photo

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questioning the American Dream and what it means to be an individual.

"Assassins" displays the blurred line between our personal and political beliefs and what happens when those beliefs are taken too far.

Would I recommend seeing this musical? Absolutely.

"Assassins" is a show beautifully intertwined with dark comedy, the other side of history and a complex score.

The Studio's production is fantastic. From the attentive lighting that changes fluidly with the mood of the show to the live band and the completely polished vocals and acting delivered by every single member of the cast, it's obvious to any viewer that this show was carefully and lovingly crafted by the cast and crew.

During intermission, I asked Village of Tamarind Grove neighbors Lynnette

Fulk and Marsha Sigwart what they thought.

"It's very interesting," Fulk said. "I thought the music was good and the voices are excellent."

"I like the humor," Sigwart added.

"Assassins" is the third and perhaps the most highly anticipated show of season 4 at The Studio Theatre.

Those with PTSD or a dislike for loud noises should be aware that the production uses stage guns, but they pose no threat and are handled professionally and carefully.

"Assassins" opened Jan. 24 and runs until March 1. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online at thevilagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

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