

Assassins Audition Packet

Who?

Director: Alyssa Marvin

Producers: Hadley Murphey & Penelope Emerson

Stage Manager: Kitty Mathieu

Music Director: Nick Ostroski

Music Supervisor: Lyndon Chen

Please contact hadley.murphey@yale.edu or penelope.emerson@yale.edu with any questions

What?

Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's *Assassins* lays bare the lives of the nine individuals who assassinated or attempted to assassinate the President of the United States. Darkly comic and wickedly sharp, this musical explores the national fixation on celebrity and its violent intersection with American desire.

This production is specifically interested in exploring how the circumstances of incarceration in the United States conflict with the popular idea of the American dream. To learn more about the team's vision for the show, take a look at the visual references inspiring the production [here](#).

When and Where?

Auditions: September 3rd from 6:30-9:30 pm, September 5th from 1:30-3:30 pm, and September 6th from 5-7 pm.

Location: Broadway Rehearsal Lofts (294 Elm Street), Room 204.

Callbacks: September 7th & 8th from 8:30-10:30 pm (Vocal Callbacks) and September 10th from 6:30 to 9:30 pm (Acting Callbacks)

Rehearsals: September 14th - January 19th

Tech: January 19-27, 2027

Shows: January 28-30, 2027

Time Commitment

Due to the ensemble nature of the show, all cast members will be consistently called to rehearsals. In September, October, and early November, cast members can expect 3-6 hours of rehearsal time a week. In late November and December, the process will become more intensive, with cast members being called 6-8 hours a week. The production team will strive to work around cast conflicts when necessary to create a stress-free rehearsal process. The tech period will begin at the start of second semester, during which point cast members will be expected to attend all rehearsals.

Content Warnings

Assassins contains references to and depictions of gun violence, death, suicide, sexual harassment, sexual assault, mental illness, racism, and strong language. Please feel free to reach out to a member of the production team with any content-related questions or concerns.

Note on Casting

Assassins is an ensemble show, meaning that every actor will be in numerous scenes and likely play several small roles in addition to the main tracks outlined below. As such, the production team is looking for performers who are curious and excited to investigate the complexities of this material. Prospective actors should feel comfortable bringing themselves to the characters, posing questions to the company, and working closely with others to craft a thematically cohesive production. **Have fun in the audition room and feel free to take creative risks!**

Meet the Team

Alyssa Marvin (Director, she/her) is a sophomore in Jonathan Edwards majoring in TDPS and History. Alyssa has been acting professionally for over a decade, most recently appearing in Mindy Kaling's *Not Suitable for Work* on Hulu and the Tony Award-winning Broadway productions of *Appropriate* and *Grey House*. At Yale, Alyssa has directed Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal* and appeared in the Dramat Mainstage *Urinetown*. She is so incredibly excited to be directing this weird and wonderful musical!

Hadley Murphey (Producer, she/her) is a sophomore in Ezra Stiles, majoring in TDPS and English. At Yale, she has produced Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal* and performed in *Mean Girls*, *Urinetown*, and YAC's *Silver Screen*. Hadley cannot wait to watch this one-of-a-kind musical come to life!

Penelope Emerson (Producer, she/her) is a sophomore in Pauli Murray College. At Yale, she

has done sound design and dramaturgical work for *Arcadia*, sound engineering for YAC, and assistant direction for *Machinal*, along with performing in *Urinetown* and *How I Learned to Drive*. She is super excited to help produce this awesome show!

Kitty Mathieu (Stage Manager, she/her)

Nick Ostroski (Music Director, he/him)

Character Descriptions

- *Actors of all gender identities and backgrounds are strongly encouraged to audition for all roles.*

[JOHN WILKES BOOTH]: Male. An eloquent Southern actor, he serves as the leader of the assassins. Charming, raging, stubborn. Assassinated President Abraham Lincoln during a performance at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. on April 14, 1865. Vocal range: F2 to G4.

[CHARLES GITEAU]: Male. A failed office seeker. Narcissistic and mad. Assassinated President James Garfield in the waiting room of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station, Washington, D.C., on July 2, 1881. Vocal range: A2 to Ab4.

[LEON CZOLOGOSZ]: Male. A Polish immigrant radicalized by poor labor conditions and anarchist rhetoric. Assassinated President William McKinley at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. on September 6, 1901. Vocal range: G#2 to G4.*

**This role will involve intimacy (a kiss) with the actor playing Lynette Fromme.*

[GUISEPPE ZANGARA]: Male. An Italian immigrant who blames the intense pains in his stomach on the United States government. Attempted to assassinate President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt as he greeted well-wishers in Bayfront Park, Miami, FL on February 15, 1933. Vocal range: B2 to A4.

[SAMUEL BYCK]: Male. A ranting middle-aged man disillusioned by the lack of American opportunity. Attempted to assassinate President Richard Nixon by hijacking a commercial jetliner. Vocal range: D3 to G4.

[LYNETTE "SQUEAKY" FROMME]: Female. A hippie in love with Charlie Manson. Attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford at the Capitol Park in Sacramento, CA on September 5, 1975. Vocal range: A3 to G5.*

**This role will involve intimacy (a kiss) with the actor playing Leon Czolgosz.*

[SARAH JANE MOORE]: Female. A frazzled housewife desperate for purpose and satisfaction. Attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, CA, on September 22, 1975. Vocal range: F3 to Eb5.

[JOHN HINCKLEY]: Male. A love-obsessed and depressed college student. Attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan as he left the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. on March 30, 1981. Vocal range: A2 to G4.

[THE BALLADEER/LEE HARVEY OSWALD]: Male or Female. A folk singer and the narrator of the show. Optimistic, relentless, the embodiment of the American dream. **AND** a suicidal dejected shipping clerk. Assassinated President John F. Kennedy from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas, TX on November 22, 1963. Vocal range: C3 to G4.

[THE PROPRIETOR]: Male or Female. A mysterious, omnipresent figure who encourages and emboldens the assassins throughout the show. Vocal range: Gb2 to F4.

Audition Expectations

Auditionees should sign-up for an audition slot on Yale College Arts. If none of the listed audition times work for you, the production team will be accepting video auditions. Video auditions are **due on September 6th at 12 pm**, and the submission link can be found on Yale College Arts.

Audition slots will each be ten minutes long. Auditionees should prepare **one** of the audition sides linked below. Please note that auditionees may choose to read for either of the characters featured in the sides, and that auditionees will be considered for all roles they wish to be regardless of their choice in scenes. **Memorization is not necessary!** In addition to the acting portion, **auditionees should prepare 32 bars (about one minute) of a song of their choice in the style of the show.** An accompanist will be provided, and you may choose to either bring in sheet music or sing with a track. If you are unsure of what to sing, a cut of *Everybody's Got the Right Reprise* is available in the audition drive below for both higher and lower voices.

Audition Materials

Audition sides and vocal selections can be found [here](#).