

**Peake Productions in association with  
Eltham College  
Assassins  
by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman**



**'Everybody's got the right to be happy... even though at times you go to extremes.'**

These are the lines with which this dark, subversive and utterly brilliant musical begins. Based around the gang of losers, outsiders and social misfits who shot and assassinated a string of US presidents. **Sondheim** and **Welman** take a brilliantly melodic and unflinching look at what happens to those people for whom the American dream in all its unattainable emptiness turns into a desperate nightmare.

The show is staged by a talented group from London. **Peake Productions'** Edinburgh credentials stretch back ten years to their haunting 2008 production of the Kander and Ebb musical *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Then known as justjohn, they followed this in 2009 with a smash-hit staging of Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* Maury Yeston's *Nine* followed in 2010. After a break of five years, they returned with a vengeance in 2015 with a deliciously dark version of *Sweeney Todd*, which the *Daily Express* awarded five stars and described as **'a cut above the rest.'** Merryly we roll along played **C** venues in 2016; **Assassins** concludes the Sondheim trilogy.

**Assassins** premiered Off-Broadway at Playwright's Horizons in 1991. It was the time of the first gulf war and in the end the time just wasn't right to take to Broadway a musical that refuses to view American society through rose-coloured spectacles. A planned 2001 revival fizzled out in the aftermath of 9-11. It wasn't until 2006 that the show finally arrived in style at Studio 54 with a scorching production starring Neil Patrick Harris. This is the script which are bringing to Edinburgh. It includes the chilling song Something Just Broke, in which the assassins attempt to explain themselves.

The show features an outstanding cast of student acting talent. Justjohn alumni are currently working in production for Bill Kenwright Ltd, conducting in Boston and Oxford, appearing on stage for the RSC, National Theatre of Scotland and touring the UK in a brand new staging of *Fame*. The **Assassins** cast includes future students at Guildford School of Acting and a member of the National Youth Theatre. Supported by a tight, professional led seven piece band, *Assassins* is a high quality piece of musical theatre, which contains some of Sondheim's most accessible music.

#### Listings Information

Venue **C**, Adam House, Chambers Street, EH1 1HR, venue 34  
 Dates 4-10 Aug  
 Time 12:00 (1hr40)  
 Ticket prices £10.50-£11.50 / concessions £8.50-£9.50 / under 18s £6.50-£7.50  
**C** venues box office 0131 581 5555 / [www.CtheFestival.com/2018/assassins](http://www.CtheFestival.com/2018/assassins)  
 Fringe box office 0131 226 0000 / [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

#### **C venues**

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Edinburgh EH1 1HR  
Ticket collection at any **C** venue

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**C venues**

For further information, images and interview availability please contact Joe White at Eltham College on 07921634718 / [jpw@eltham-college.org.uk](mailto:jpw@eltham-college.org.uk) or the C venues press office on 0131 581 5550 / [press@cvenues.com](mailto:press@cvenues.com)

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