



Fuse Theatre of CT Presents

ASSASSINS

THE TONY-WINNING MUSICAL ABOUT MURDER, MISFIRES AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

Music & Lyrics by

**Stephen
Sondheim**

Orchestrations by
Michael Starobin

Book by

**John
Weidman**

Based on an Idea by
Charles Gilbert, Jr.



Sept. 20, 21,
22*, 27*, 28, 29

**Music Back Then
Performance Theatre**

221 Bull Hill Ln, West Haven, CT

Directed by

**Noah
Golden**

* ASL-Interpreted performance

PROGRAM

FUSE Board of Directors

Noah Golden, Chair
Eric Wolff, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Santaus, Treasurer
Lara Morton, Secretary
Ty Scurry, Director
Elvin Melendez, Director

JOIN US!

FUSE Theatre of CT is looking to expand its board of directors and creative team. If you or someone you know might be a great fit for Fuse, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at
info@fusetheatrect.org
(203) 314-3394

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The Lion King, Jr. - 2020

*A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical** - 2021

All Together Now! - 2021

Lost Girl - 2022

Songs For A New World - 2023

*Falsettos*** - 2023

Wait 'Til You See What's Next:
Anniversary Concert and Fundraiser
(2023)

*The Gospel According To Broadway:
A Fuse Concert* - 2024

* Winner, Best Feature-Length Comedy -
Legacy Theatre Film Festival

** 9 BroadwayWorldCT Nominations

**Fuse Theatre of CT's programming and this production
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FUSE
THEATRE OF CT

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Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**

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Based on an Idea by **Charles Gilbert, Jr.**

Set Design

April Chateauneuf

Costume Design

Laura Feist-Roche

Lighting Design

Hannah S. Wolland

Props

**Ta'LannaMonique
Lawson-Dickerson**

Sound Design

Rich Ives

Technical Director

Eric Wolff

Executive Producer **Elizabeth Santaus**

Creative Producer **Lara Morton**

Stage Manager **T. M. Gadomski**

Musical Director **Aron J. Smith**

Choreographer **Virginia Skinner**

Director **Noah Golden**

Playwrights Horizons, Inc - New York City produced Assassins Off-Broadway in 1990.
Assassins is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

Ticketing Services **Elm City Tickets**

Rehearsal Space **The Sandbox @ Arts Council of Greater New Haven •
Music Back Then • Dressler Santaus Colman**

Marketing **BuzzEngine Marketing & Events**

ASL-interpretation **Mary O'Donnell**

Lighting and Sound Support **Robert Berson**

Costume Assistant **Emily Calderone**

Set Construction **Dan Anderson • Claudette Chateaufneuf •
Scott Chateaufneuf • Graeme Kennedy • John Kennedy •
Eric Wolff • Paige Keehner**

Special Thanks

Anthony Willoughby, Gladys Cummings, Craig Hardgrove and
Music Back Then • Arts Council of Greater New Haven • Arts West CT
• Avery Anderson, Emma Hill, Kahleem Poole-Tejada and Elm City
Tickets • Clarissa Vargas and M&T Bank • Dana Sachs • David Cahill
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Spotlight Radio • WTNH

CONTENT WARNING:

Assassins contains mature themes, including depictions of violence, simulated gun use and gunshots, strong language, sexual assault, use of a racial slur, and references to real-life events. The musical explores complex and potentially sensitive topics such as mental illness, political extremism, and the motivations behind acts of violence.



Elizabeth
Bottoni



Thom
Brown III



Lu
DeJesus



Violet
Falkowski



Matt
Griffiths



Graeme
Kennedy



Em
Kramm



David
Lally



Loretta
Lawson



Kat
Lee



Caleb
Morgan



Ethan
Sachs



D'Arcee
C. Neal



Derek
Petti



Americo
Salvi



Omar
Sandakly



Sheri
Sanders

Cast

Proprietor.....	AMERICO SALVI
Leon Czolgosz.....	DEREK PETTI
John Hinckley.....	VIOLET FALKOWSKI
Charles Guiteau.....	ETHAN SACHS
Giuseppe Zangara.....	LU DeJESUS
Samuel Byck.....	MATT GRIFFITHS
Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme.....	EM KRAMM
Sara Jane Moore.....	SHERI SANDERS
John Wilkes Booth.....	THOM BROWN III
Balladeer.....	OMAR SANDAKLY
David Herold, Bystander & Others.....	CALEB MORGAN
Bystander & Others.....	D'ARCEE C. NEAL
Bystander & Others.....	DAVID LALLY
Bystander & Others.....	ELIZABETH BOTTONI
Bystander & Others.....	KAT LEE
Emma Goldman, Bystander & Others.....	LORETTA LAWSON
Billy, Bystander & Others.....	GRAEME KENNEDY

Understudies

For Squeaky Fromme – KAT LEE

For Balladeer, Booth, Guiteau – CALEB MORGAN

For Proprietor, Czolgosz – DAVID LALLY

For Zangara, Hinckley – D'ARCEE NEAL

Understudies never substitute for the listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.



Musical Numbers

"Everybody's Got The Right"

"The Ballad of Booth"

"How I Saved Roosevelt"

"Gun Song"

"The Ballad of Czolgosz"

"Unworthy Of Your Love"

"The Ballad of Guiteau"

"Another National Anthem"

"Something Just Broke"

"Everybody's Got The Right"

Orchestra

Conductor/Keyboard – Aron J. Smith

Keyboard II – Clio Janis

Reeds I – Rick Sadlon

Reeds II – Pat Lombardo

Guitar/Banjo – John Toughy

Bass – Jim Andrews


Trumpet – Pete Roe

Percussion – Nate Dobas

ASSASSINS WILL BE PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION

Please silence all cellular phones and personal devices
before the performance begins.

The use of any recording device, either audio or video,
and the taking of photography are strictly prohibited.

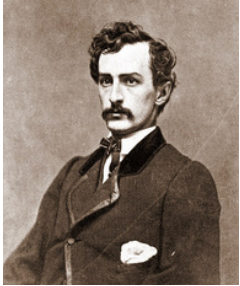


"I am only slightly less astonished by the egotism of the assassins, the inflated self-esteem it requires to kill a president, than I am astonished by the men who run for president. These are people who have the gall to believe they can fix us—us and our deficit, our fossil fuels, our racism, poverty, our potholes and public schools. The egomania required to be president or a presidential assassin makes the two types brothers of sorts. Presidents and presidential assassins are like Las Vegas and Salt Lake City that way. Even though one city is all about sin and the other is all about salvation, they are identical, one-dimensional company towns built up out of the desert by the sheer will of true believers. The assassins and the presidents invite the same basic question: Just who do you think you are?"

– *Assassination Vacation*, Sarah Vowell



Meet The Assassins



John Wilkes Booth

May 10, 1838 – April 26, 1865

Assassinated Abraham Lincoln

John Wilkes Booth was a successful stage actor. A fervent supporter of the Confederacy and vehemently opposed to the abolition of slavery, Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln during a performance at Ford's Theater. Booth believed that killing Lincoln would avenge the South's defeat in the Civil War and possibly inspire a resurgence of the Confederate cause. He was shot and killed by Sergeant Thomas H. "Boston" Corbett while trying to hide on a Virginia farm.



Charles J. Guiteau

September 8, 1841 – June 30, 1882

Assassinated James Garfield

Charles Guiteau was a failed lawyer, writer, and theologian. Guiteau believed he was owed a diplomatic post for his minor role in Garfield's campaign. When his requests were denied, he became delusional, convinced that killing Garfield would unite the Republican Party and save the nation. He was convicted and executed for the crime.



Leon F. Czolgosz

May 5, 1873 – October 29, 1901

Assassinated William McKinley

Leon Czolgosz was a Polish-American laborer. Influenced by radical anarchist beliefs, Czolgosz saw President McKinley as a symbol of oppression and corporate power. He believed that killing the president would ignite a revolution against the government and societal inequalities. Czolgosz was arrested immediately after the assassination and was later executed in the electric chair.



Giuseppe Zangara

September 7, 1900 – March 20, 1933

Attempted To Assassinate Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Giuseppe Zangara was an Italian immigrant and laborer. Suffering from chronic pain and deeply resentful of government figures, whom he blamed for his hardships, Zangara fired at Roosevelt during a public event in Miami. He missed Roosevelt, but fatally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak. Zangara was swiftly convicted and executed.



Lee Harvey Oswald

October 18, 1939 – November 24, 1963

Assassinated John F. Kennedy

Lee Harvey Oswald was a former U.S. Marine. A Marxist with a history of defecting to the Soviet Union, Oswald was deeply disillusioned with American society. His motives remain unclear, but his actions were likely fueled by his radical political beliefs and personal frustrations. Oswald was killed after his assassination of John F. Kennedy two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.



Samuel Byck

January 30, 1930 – February 22, 1974

Attempted To Assassinate Richard Nixon

Samuel Byck was a former tire salesman. Struggling with mental health issues and feeling marginalized by society, Byck blamed Nixon and the government for his personal failures. He planned to hijack a plane and crash it into the White House. Byck's plot was thwarted when he was shot and killed by police during the attempt.



Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme

October 22, 1948 –

Attempted To Assassinate Gerald Ford

Lynette Fromme was a member of the Manson Family, a cult led by Charles Manson. She attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford as a protest against environmental issues and in support of Manson. Fromme was apprehended before she could fire. She was sentenced to life in prison but was released on parole in 2009.

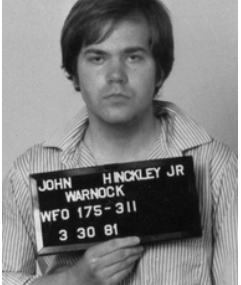


Sara Jane Moore

February 15, 1930 -

Attempted To Assassinate Gerald Ford

Sara Jane Moore was an accountant and political activist. Moore was married five times and had four children before abandoning domestic life to join the counter-culture movement. Disillusioned by political and social turmoil, she believed killing Ford would incite a revolution. Her shot narrowly missed, and she was quickly subdued. Moore was sentenced to life in prison but was released on parole in 2007.



John Hinckley Jr.

May 29, 1955 -

Attempted To Assassinate Ronald Reagan

John Hinckley Jr. was a student and musician. Motivated by an obsession with actress Jodie Foster and a desire to gain her attention, Hinckley believed that killing Reagan would impress her. He shot Reagan and three others outside a Washington, D.C., hotel. Hinckley was found not guilty by reason of insanity and was later released in 2016.

Meet The Cast

Elizabeth Bottoni (Bystander & Others), she/her, is a lifelong theater lover who is thrilled to be performing in her first Sondheim musical! She has been acting since 2012, and is glad to be joining Fuse for her first show with the company! Some of her favorite roles from other productions include Lady Macbeth in *I Hate Shakespeare*, Gilmer in *Godspell*, Veronica in *God of Carnage*, and Janet in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Offstage, she can be found working as an engineer, writing short stories, or ice skating. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Thom Brown III (John Wilkes Booth), he/him, is honored to portray Booth in Fuse Theatre of Connecticut's production of *Assassins*. Newly a Connecticut-based actor, he has previously appeared as Edward Rutledge in *1776*, Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Sir Toby Belch in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. With a passion for complex characters and thought-provoking theatre, Thom is drawn to the dark charisma and timely themes of this Stephen Sondheim classic. When not on stage, Thom enjoys cooking, gardening, and playing with his three dogs. He is proud to be part of this incredibly talented cast and crew, and he looks forward to sharing this haunting and unforgettable story with audiences. All my love to Roxana.

Lu DeJesus (Giuseppe Zangara), he/him, is ecstatic to be making his Fuse debut. Lu has been performing professionally and unprofessionally since he was 8 years old, and when he's not singing, he's serving tables or charming customers at the front desk of his new job. Lu is signed by Nouveaux Talent Management and studied Musical Theatre at Western Connecticut State University. Some of his previous credits include: Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd* (Connecticut Repertory Theatre), Actor 1 in *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914* (Playhouse on Park), Eddie/Dr. Scott in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Pantochino Productions), Raoul in *The Panto of the Opera* (Pantochino Productions), and Jerry in *And Away We Go* (Pantochino Productions). Lu would like to dedicate his performance to his grandmother, Mary, and his late dog, India.

Violet Falkowski (John Hinckley), they/she, is a playwright, musician and, educator from the Hartford area. She is thrilled to be working on such timely material with such a stellar group of humans. Favorite roles include Judas (*Jesus Christ Superstar*) Eddie/Dr. Scott (*Rocky Horror Show*) and Charlie (*The Goddamn Tooney Lunes* at Rat Queen Theatre Co.) You can find her music online under the name "Untold Joys." She'd like to thank the cast, crew, creative team, friends, partner, and parents.

Matt Griffiths (Samuel Byck), he/him, is absolutely thrilled to be making his Fuse Theatre debut in *Assassins!* He is an actor, director and, writer who has appeared in and worked on numerous theatrical productions, radio programs, renaissance faires, podcasts, and what-have-you (because he just doesn't know how to say no!) around CT and online for over 20 years. Most recently, he both appeared in and directed *LA 8 AM* as part of the Orange Players' *Acting Up! 2024*, and prior to that, he appeared as Richard Hannay in the Castle Craig Players' production of *The 39 Steps*. He would like to thank Fuse Theatre and the cast and crew of *Assassins* for being so welcoming and giving him the opportunity to be a part of such an important and timely production.

Graeme Kennedy (Billy, Bystander & Others), he/him, is a 6th-grade student at Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School in New Haven, CT. Graeme has been performing since he was 4 years old with companies including Connecticut Theater Company, Madison Arts Barn, Shoreline Theater Academy and Fuse Theater of CT. Favorite roles include Jason in *Falsettos* with Fuse and Young Guido in *Nine*. After *Assassins*, you will find him performing in *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* as well as *A Christmas Carol*. When he's not singing, dancing or acting you can find him skiing all across New England. He would like to thank his parents and sister for their love and support, and his voice and dance teachers for their guidance.

Em Kramm (Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme), she/they, is ecstatic to be a part of this wonderful ensemble with Fuse! Em holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Theatre from Florida State University. Select past credits include; Disney Park's Live Entertainment (performer), Apple TV+ ("Dickinson"), "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," and *RENT* (Maureen), Utah Festival Opera and Music Theatre, and Glow Lyric Theatre. Em is currently a participant in the Information Technology Associate Program with Yale ITS. Many thanks to her friends, family and to Fuse for this opportunity.

David Lally (Bystander & Others), he/him, began performing at Middlebury College decades ago. Since then, he been focusing on a marketing career while periodically studying acting at the Hartford Stage Company. Now approaching retirement, he recently appeared in the Little Theatre of Manchester's productions of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. He also qualified for the Vocal Intensive Program (VIP) directed by Benjamin Rauch of the Hartt School in both 2023 and 2024. In August of this year, he was a finalist in "Hartford's Got Talent" at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center. He wrote the play, *Dream House*, which was performed at Playhouse on Park and later produced as a short film. It won the Top LGBTQ Film at the Burbank International Film Festival in 2019. You can watch it on Amazon Prime.

Loretta Lawson (Emma Goldman, Bystander & Others), she/her is an actor, playwright, director, and producer. Loretta discovered her love of acting at the age of 14 when she started out in skits for her local church. Loretta is excited and honored to be a part of the *Assassins*. After taking time away from the arts, she is back to her love of acting and now in her first musical. Some of her favorite roles include: Maggie in *Other Than Honorable*, Sister Jennie in *Sister To Holy*, The Wife in *The Paths You Choose*, The Wife in *Two Brothers*, and Mable in *God Is Able*. Director and Writing Credits: *The Journey*, *God Is Able*, *Jesus Paid It All*. *The Good Person of New Haven* at Long Wharf Theatre (Assistant Editor). TV/Film: Nadine in *The Baptiste Family Series*, The Wife in *Out Of Sorts*, *More Than Money*, and *Judges Chambers CT* TV in Middletown CT. Written and produced a multitude of skits and vignettes throughout the years. Loretta has attended the Actors Gym, Sings in Shoreline Soul Gospel Choir, and has taken voice lessons at New Haven Academy of Performing Arts. Print: Citizens People Project New York City.

Kat Lee (Bystander & Others), she/her, is overjoyed to perform again after a many-year hiatus. Past stage credits include: *I Was Loved By a Rat* (NYC Fringe Festival), *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *Eurydice*. You can also catch her in the music video *Sway* for the band Mates of State. Kat works as a drama therapist and educator who facilitates embodied storytelling and play with folx recovering from traumatic life experiences. She is a proud graduate of Oberlin College and NYU. Thank you to her two favorite boys, Jason (husband) and Bowie (dog), for their infinite support. <http://www.aredthread.net>

Caleb Morgan (David Herold, Bystander & Others), he/him, is an award-winning vocal director and baritone residing in East Lyme, Connecticut. Caleb holds a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He recently was seen as Dr Falke in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* as well as at the Lyric Opera of Chicago in Verdi's *Macbeth*. Other roles include: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in *Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical*, Caveman in *The Addams Family*, Shrek in *Shrek: The Musical*, Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, Arvide Abernathy in *Guys and Dolls*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, L'italiana in *Algeri*, *Iolanthe*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Don Giovanni*, *Carmen*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and Con Brio Choral Society. He has also performed internationally in Venice, Florence, and for mass at Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City in Italy. Outside of the music realm, you will find Caleb fighting discrimination and stigma for those who are in the LGBTQIA+ community, those who are living with HIV, those experiencing homelessness, and those who suffer from substance use disorder. Caleb serves as a board Secretary and on the Pride Committee for the organization, OutCt. He is an activist locally and on Capitol Hill for human rights, equitable healthcare for all, and social justice! "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." "Love Liberates."

Ethan Sachs (Charles Guiteau), he/him, pursued an acting degree from Muhlenberg College before pivoting to working in tech. He now spends his days as a senior consultant with Slalom. After almost a decade away from the performing arts, he most recently appeared on stage last summer as Oberon/Theseus in Eastbound Theater's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is thrilled to christen his return to musical theater by making his Fuse debut in the role of Charles Guiteau. He is deeply grateful to Noah and the rest of the Assassins team for the incredibly serendipitous and reinvigorating opportunity.

D'Arcee Neal (Bystander & Others), he/they, is a wheelchair-using disabled actor, writer, and singer with 9 years experience. Having just finished his doctorate in English, years before he also graduated with a degree in Musical Theatre from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, before joining the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington for 7 years performing as a soloist in various venues, while working both in front and behind the camera as an actor for commercial government YouTube videos, and in *Little Shop of Horrors*; as well as an all-ASL production of *The Who's Tommy*. Today as both a screen and creative writer, he helps diverse and talented voices find stories that bring their bodies to life; while performing virtually and locally as a storyteller and frequent podcast guest.

Derek Petti (Leon Czolgosz), he/him, is thrilled to be in his first Fuse Theatre production! He is a mechanical engineer who enjoys doing theater and music in his spare time and is happy to be able to pursue his passion while balancing a career in engineering. He is also a budding composer and music producer. Some of his recent roles include Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mr. Maraczek in *She Loves Me*, and Ren in *Footloose*.

Americo Salvi (Proprietor), he/him, is excited for his debut with Fuse Theatre and their production of *Assassins*! This show has been one of his favorites since he first saw it live performed at the Yale Repertory Theatre back in 2017. Americo has performed a multitude of shows including operas such as *E'lisir D'amore* (Ensemble/Dulcamara U.S), *Die Zauberflute* (Ensemble), and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (King Balthazar). Musicals: *Oklahoma!* (Judd Fry), *Footloose* (Rev. Shaw Moore), *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *Once on this Island* (Agwe/Armand), and many more. He would like to personally thank his voice teachers for their guidance, family and friends for their support, and the Fuse cast and crew for their dedication, professionalism, and craftsmanship in the rehearsal process.

Omar Sandakly (Balladeer), he/him, is excited to be making his Fuse debut. He is a New Haven-based actor, musician, songwriter, and musical theatre composer. Omar graduated from The Hartt School in 2021 with a BM in Composition (and half a Music Theater BFA). In his spare time, Omar likes to ate-ate-ate ayples and banaynays. Thanks to Jamie for getting me out of my shell, and to the cast and crew for a wonderful show. Check out his EP, *Kindling*! || @omar.the.omar omarsandakly.com

Sheri Sanders (Sara Jane Moore), she/they/any, currently lives in New Haven and is retiring from 20 years of changing the landscape of musical theatre education trailblazing the musical theatre revolution, *Rock The Audition*. A few favorite acting jobs squeezed in: launching the tour of Thompson and Desmons' *Women Of A Certain Age* as Lulu Bear Baker, playing Nana Marie in *Millennials are Killing Musicals* with Out Of The Box Theatrics off-bway, Cameron Coles GENIUS Queer retelling of *Cyrano*, @twitterpated, Rosie in *Mamma Mia* at ACT of CT, Kitty in the opera *The Screams of Kitty Genovese* (NYMF), and Little Becky in the National Tour of *Urinetown*. Sheri is a late-diagnosed Autistic actor and collaborator (Audhd).Instagram: @sherisandersishere.



Meet The Authors

John Weidman (Book) has written the books for a wide variety of musicals, among them *Pacific Overtures* (Tony nomination, Best Book), *Assassins* (Tony Award, Best Musical Revival), and *Road Show* (Lucille Lortel nomination, Best Musical), all with scores by Stephen Sondheim; *Contact* (Tony nomination, Best Book; Tony Award, Best Musical), co-created with director/choreographer Susan Stroman; *Happiness*, score by Scott Frankel and Michael Korie, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman; *Take Flight and Big* (Tony nomination, Best Book), scores by Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire; and the new book, co-authored with Timothy Crouse, for the Lincoln Center Theater/Roundabout Theatre revivals of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* (Tony Awards, Best Musical Revival; Olivier Award, Best Musical Production). Since his children were pre-schoolers, Weidman has written for Sesame Street, receiving more than a dozen Emmy Awards for Outstanding Writing for a Children's Program. From 1999 to 2009 he served as President of the Dramatists Guild of America.

Stephen Sondheim (Music and Lyrics), 1930–2021, wrote the music and lyrics for *Saturday Night* (1954), *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) and *HERE WE ARE* (2023), as well as the lyrics for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959), *Do I Hear A Waltz?* (1965) and additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973). *Side By Side By Sondheim* (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983), *Putting It Together* (1993/99), *Moving On* (2001), *Sondheim On Sondheim* (2010) and *Old Friends* (2023) are anthologies of his work as composer and lyricist. For films, he composed the scores of "Stavisky" (1974), co-composed the score for "Reds" (1981), and wrote songs for "Dick Tracy" (1990). He wrote songs for the television production "Evening Primrose" (1966), co-authored the film "The Last of Sheila" (1973) and the play *Getting Away With Murder* (1996) and provided incidental music for the plays *The Girls of Summer* (1956), *Invitation To A March* (1961), *Twigs* (1971) and *The Enclave* (1973). He won the Tony Award for Best Score for *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods*, and *Passion*, all of which won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, as did *Pacific Overtures* and *Sunday In The Park With George*, the latter also receiving the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1985). Stephen Sondheim was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from Williams College, winning the Hutchinson Prize for Music Composition, after which he studied theory and composition with Milton Babbitt. He served on the Council of the Dramatists Guild, the national association of playwrights, composers and lyricists, and served as its president from 1973 to 1981. In 1983 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 1990 was appointed the first Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University. He was awarded the Kennedy Center Honors in 1993, the National Medal of Arts in 1996, the MacDowell Medal in 2013 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: "Finishing the Hat" (2010) and "Look, I Made a Hat" (2011). In 2010 the Broadway theater formerly known as Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed in his honor, and in 2019 he became the first living artist to have a theatre named in his honor on Shaftesbury Avenue when the refurbished Queen's Theatre in London's West End was renamed the Sondheim Theatre to commemorate his 90th birthday, by Sir Cameron Mackintosh.

Meet The Creative Team

Noah Golden (Director), he/him, is ecstatic to be working on this dream project with this incredible company at a time when this story begs telling. With Fuse, Noah directed Jason Robert Brown's *Songs For A New World*, produced *The Gospel According to Broadway*, *Falsettos*, *Lost Girl*, and *All Together Now!*, as well as edited and co-conceived their film *A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical*, which won Best Feature-Length Comedy at the Legacy Film Festival. With Orange Players, he produced *Almost, Maine*, and has produced and directed several productions of their annual ten-minute play showcase *Acting Up!* He also served as associate director for *The Great Gatsby: A Live Radio Play* at Legacy Theater, as well as multiple musicals with A Shared Stage Productions, including *Footloose*, *Sister Act*, and *The Addams Family*. Favorite on-stage roles include: *Falsettos* (Mendel, BroadwayWorld CT nominee), *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Barfée), *Man of La Mancha* (Sancho), and *Trestle At Pope Lick Creek* (Chas). Writing credits include work with Vintage Soul Productions, Long Wharf Theatre, and as a columnist/critic for OnStageBlog. During the day, Noah is a video producer and editor for Yale School of Medicine. Gratitude to this entire talented, hard-working, collaborative team, his family, and every one of you in the audience for supporting local theater. Go vote. "Art is edited truth - edited to give it shape, rhythm, speed and punch. Art is skill in the service of passion. Art, in itself, is an attempt to bring order out of chaos." - Stephen Sondheim. Instagram: @Noah.Golden.90.

Lara Morton (Creative Producer), she/her, co-founded Fuse in 2019 after a dynamic career teaching, performing, writing, and directing theatre across Connecticut and New York. With Fuse, Lara has directed standout productions including *Falsettos*, *The Gospel According to Broadway*, *Lost Girl* (2022), *The Lion King Jr.* (2020/virtual), and the acclaimed *A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical*, a pandemic innovation that won Best Feature-length Comedy at the Legacy Theatre Film Festival and is now a teaching resource for educators on YouTube. As a co-producer, she has contributed to *All Together Now!* (2021) and *Songs for a New World* (2023). Lara is also an accomplished performer and will soon appear in The Essex Steam Train's *North Pole Express*. In addition to her theatre work, she is a voice actor, vocalist, face painter, playwright, acting coach/theatre teacher, and Simulated Patient actor for Yale School of Medicine. Lara is endlessly grateful for the talented team at Fuse, who bring their passion, skill, and warmth to every project. Instagram: @laraemorton_0425.

Elizabeth Santaus (Executive Producer), she/her, graduated from Wellesley College with a major in studio art and a minor in mathematics. Elizabeth has over thirty years of experience in the financial accounting software and bookkeeping industry. With previous experience consulting and as CFO for three sister companies in Branford, Santaus knows how to help businesses prosper and grow. She has consulted, trained, and provided bookkeeping services for more than 300 small businesses in Connecticut and New York since launching Dressler Santaus LLC in 2006. She has been a QuickBooks® trainer for the Community Economic Development Fund's Bridgeport location and currently presents seminars in conjunction with SCORE. Santaus has been Treasurer of The Network of Executive Women of Milford, Inc. for seven years. A member of the Gateway Christian Fellowship congregation, Santaus' strong faith and seemingly effortless grace extends to this community and to the arts. The arts, particularly fine art, musical theater, and dance, have been her unpaid passion, and she is thrilled to be able to combine this love with her financial management skills working with Fuse, and has successfully written several state grants to fund this season's productions. Since coming to Fuse, Santaus has served as Executive Producer on *A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical* (2021), *All Together Now!* (2021), *Lost Girl* (2022), *Songs For A New World* (2023), *Falsettos* (2023) and *The Gospel According to Broadway* (2024).

T. M. Gadomski (Stage Manager), they/them, is a rising playwright displaced from Long Island to Connecticut, T. currently works with the immersive theater troupe Grymm Studios. Gadomski writes with their heart and soul often with storylines dealing with mental stability, love, and gender. They have been involved in theater for over a decade and had their shows *Indulgence*, *Free Will*, *The Misery Theatre Guild*, *Harmony Lake*, and *The Harsh Reality of Dating a Poet*, produced throughout Connecticut, the Midwest, and the East Coast. *Free Will* was also published in Issue #10 of Fleas on the Dog Magazine (Ontario, Canada.) Plot writer at "Sustainable Collapse." <https://linktr.ee/skipatrolproductions>

Aron Smith (Musical Director), he/him, is a greater New Haven-based music director, pianist, accompanist, and arranger. He can be seen performing and music directing in many professional and community theaters and is the music director for the Theatre for Young Audiences at Downtown Cabaret. An award-winning educator with over 20 years of public education experience, Aron currently teaches general music, band, and choir in Oxford CT. He co-founded the Edgewood Drama Club and previously directed a PAC-recognized choir. The choir won "Best Overall" in the "2015 Shubert Centennial Show Choir Competition". Aron teaches piano at the University of Bridgeport. He earned his B.A. and M.S. degrees from University of Bridgeport; has a degree in English Literature from Marist College; and studied at Hartt School in West Hartford. Aron is delighted to be back with Fuse after musical directing *Falsettos* and *Songs For A New World* and to be working with this wonderful cast and creative team.

Virginia Skinner (Choreographer), she/her, has been working in musical theater for as long as she can remember. Virginia is an actress, choreographer, and musician. She has worked with many theater companies throughout Connecticut in a plethora of different roles, including once as a stage manager and another as a director. Some of her choreography credits include *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Her favorite roles that she has performed to date are Mrs. Walker in *The Who's Tommy*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Molly in *The Road to Aracea*. Virginia studied music and theater at Southern Connecticut State University. She currently performs with the Connecticut-based band VAMP42. When she's not on stage or dancing, she is usually hiking with her dog, knitting, or watching Muppet movies with her son.

Laura Feist-Roche (Costume Designer), she/her, is honored to join the Fuse production team as Costume Designer for this production of *Assassins*. Over the course of her career in technical theatre and broadcast media, Laura has performed many 'roles'. Stage Manager (Shakespeare by the Sea, 1999-2003), Traffic Reporter (Skywords Media, Cox Media, Connoisseur Media) Costumer (Two Planks: *Spamalot/Footloose*, West Haven High: *Joseph... Dreamcoat/You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown/Grease/You Can't Take it with You/Clue/Newsies*, Hopkins School: *Mamma Mia/Macbeth/Our Town/Oklahoma/Importance of Being Earnest/Alibis*), News Reporter/Promotions Team: Connoisseur Media. She is a three-time Halo nominated costume designer, avid News hound (as part of the WICC weekend news team), and mediocre guitar player. She has two daughters, Madi (DePaul) and Isobel (WHHS), and is so grateful to them for their support in the crazy busy life they share. And, Robert because IFYKK. Laura would like to thank Lara for her unwavering friendship and support, Noah for his vision on this extraordinary show, and to the Team and board of directors for bringing this show to life!

April Chateaufneuf (Scenic Design), she/her, has designed and painted just over 100 sets for local community Theaters and school productions. She has many Regional Theater credits and an independent film credit under her belt. April's favorite projects, to date, are the Boston Ballet's *Nutcracker*, designed by Robert Perdziola and Broadway's *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, designed by Alexander Dodge. April holds a certificate in Technical Design and Production: Scenic Art from Yale School of Drama and is currently employed as a Scenic Artist at the historic Goodspeed Opera House.

Richard Ives (Sound Designer), he/him, of IDEAS Unlimited, LLC is providing audio support for his third production with Fuse. He is a mechanical design/project/quality engineer by trade, with a BSME degree from Carnegie Mellon University, but after college has always managed to find time to pursue his interest in the technical aspects of music. Rich has designed, installed, and maintained sound systems for area schools and churches, but is most at home mixing a live performance. He says that he "just doesn't feel right" watching a show unless he is sitting behind a mixing console and surrounded by electronics. From unknown performers to celebrities, from audiences of a few dozen to 15,000, from classical to rock, from tiny coffeehouses to Carnegie Hall, Rich has mixed it all. Most recently, he has been turning up the volume on middle and high school musicals and gets a lot of satisfaction from surprised parents who can hear their tiny six-year-old from the back row. Rich would like to thank Fuse for the opportunity to be a part of the creative team for *Assassins*.

Hannah S. Wolland (Lighting Designer), she/her, is a lighting/projection designer and stage manager specializing in theatre and dance. A New York native, Hannah holds a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology from the University at Buffalo and an MFA in Entertainment Design from Southern Methodist University. Past designs include *The Impossible Dream*, *Dragons Love Tacos* and *Antigonick* (Hangar Theatre), *Fauci and Kramer* (First Look Buffalo), *The Game's Afoot* (The Naples Players), and *Twelfth Night, A Musical* as well as thirty-two original dance works at SMU.

Eric Wolff (Technical Director), he/him, is proud to have the opportunity to serve as technical director for this extraordinary cast and creative team of *Assassins*. Eric has a background in theater, having majored in theater with a minor in religion at Sarah Lawrence College. He has also played the trumpet and recorders since childhood and currently plays in the Guilford Town Band and the SCSU Concert Band. Subsequent to Sarah Lawrence, Eric performed, designed and ran lights, as well as designed and built sets for off Broadway theaters including La Mama ETC, The Open Space, and The Manhattan Theater Club. Also during those years, he worked for John Scher productions at The Capitol Theater in Passaic, Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City, The Casino Arena in Asbury Park, and The Asbury Park convention center with any and every Rock and Roll act that toured in the 70s. Subsequently he became a IATSE stagehand at BAM. Ultimately, Eric formed Aegis Universal Dance and Performance Company with Edward Caton and Gyles Fontaine. Their productions were reviewed in the New York Times and Dance magazine among other publications. He has served as Managing Director of Organizational Development of an international non-profit called Destination Imagination. He has been an instructor at Baruch/CUNY where he taught Systems Thinking and Management Practices. As an Organizational Development consultant he has worked with diverse organizations, including Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, New York Live Arts, and The Thomas Keller Restaurant Group. He is delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to Fuse where he has also served as producer of *The Gospel According to Broadway*.





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