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The Florida Ballet enriches and inspires the cultural landscape of our community through the education and art of classical ballet.



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THE 5 & DIME AND HOLLY & REDGIE GUTSHALL PRESENT

ASSASSINS

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM • BOOK BY JOHN WEIDMAN
DIRECTED BY BRADLEY AKERS • MUSIC DIRECTION BY ANTHONY FELTON



THE 5 & DIME
A THEATRE COMPANY

DECEMBER 8, 9, 10, 11*, 14, 15, 16, 2023
THURSDAY-SATURDAY: 8pm • SUNDAY: 2pm
*Pay What You Please (Sponsored by PNC Foundation): 8pm
\$27 online • \$30 at the door

INFO & TICKETS:
www.the5anddime.org



The 5 & Dime is funded in part by the City of Jacksonville and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc., as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



IN RESIDENCY AT



THE FLORIDA BALLET
JACKSONVILLE
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Margaret Sindel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When I began writing these notes, I realized quickly that I could write a full dissertation on *Assassins* and what I think that Sondheim, Weidman, and Gilbert were attempting to say... along with what I hope our production accomplishes. And while my fingers were typing viciously and my backspace button was worn out, I decided that it may be best for you to have the same blind (and perhaps visceral) reaction to this masterpiece of musical theatre that we did when we first experienced it.

Instead, I'll take this time to celebrate the artists that have poured every bit of themselves into the telling of this story. **Daniel, Chris, Ron, Josh, Jen, Shauna, Richie, Aaron, Heather, Christine, Brandon, and Xander** — thank you for being tenacious and relentless in your discovery of these alarmingly human characters, and thank you for making every rehearsal feel like an acting workshop. **Daniel, Anthony, Sam, Gabe, Katie, Erik, Del, Lulu, Olivia, and Zach** — thank you for translating an insane vision into an imaginative playground for our dreams to run wild, and thank you for being the finest collaborators along the way. It takes a village, they say, and this production is a clear example of just how true that is.

This is my first production in my post-Managing Artistic Director life with The 5 & Dime, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention how unendingly proud I am to pass the baton to your new Managing Artistic Director, Bethany Paolini. **Bethany**, you are exactly where you were meant to be and I am so grateful to everything you've done to make this production possible. You've got this, and I've got your back.

My final thanks goes to **you** — the audience, the supporters, the lifeblood of theatre in this town — thank you for supporting the mission of an organization that we all love so dearly, and for continuing to make sure that theatre still has a voice and place in this world. You are my reason, every single time.

Thank you for being here. Have fun at the circus—the circus that is America.

Bradley Akers, Director



The 5 & Dime tells stories that **engage, inspire, entertain, and challenge** audiences, nurturing a rich artistic culture in Jacksonville.

STAFF

Bethany Paolini
Managing Artistic Director

Krysten Bennett
Box Office Manager

Sam Hannigan
Production Manager

Zach Rivera
Marketing Coordinator/House Manager

Elizabeth Rivera
Bar Manager

Heather Starling
Volunteer Coordinator

Gabe Barnert
Resident Lighting Designer

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Caryl Butterley

Evan Gould

Judy Gould

Staci Cobb Grant

Lee Hamby

Craig Leavitt

Zeina Salame

Josh Taylor

Josh Waller

A group of artists and friends came together with a common goal: to make a change in the Jacksonville cultural arts community. From this, THE 5 & DIME, a theatre company, was born. Founded with the hope of facilitating diverse opportunities and a supportive environment for collaboration, THE 5 & DIME is a group of passionate theatre artists who've come together in the urban core to develop a place where all kinds of art happens. The founding members and board of directors offer an invitation to all Jacksonville artists to join in the mission to stimulate this city's potential for the rich culture local audiences and art lovers have been craving and deserve. It started with a simple question, **"Why not us?"** And so we offer this: **"Why not YOU?"**

www.The5andDime.org

It's support from people like you that allows us to produce quality, thought-provoking theatre, and each and every contribution we receive ensures our ability to continue bringing change-making storytelling to the local stage.

Many thanks to those who have so generously given!

Karen Anderson	Caron & Craig Johnson
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Kacy Hope & Will Davis	Culture
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David Voss
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Watkins
The Wellness Hub
Anne White
Mark Wieder &
Jonathan Reiner
Tricia Williams
Mitchell Wohl

*List reflects contributions received
December 1, 2022-November 30, 2023.

ASSASSINS

Book by **JOHN WEIDMAN** • Music and Lyrics by **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

Directed by **BRADLEY AKERS** Music Directed by **ANTHONY FELTON**

Onstage **DECEMBER 8 – 16** in the Black Box at The Florida Ballet

This play is performed with a 15-minute intermission

THE CAST

JOHN WILKES BOOTH.....	Daniel Austin
CHARLES GUITEAU.....	Josh Waller
LEON CZOLGOSZ.....	Chris Robertson
GIUSEPPE ZANGARA.....	Richie Rosado
SAMUEL BYCK.....	Ron Shreve
LYNETTE "SQUEAKY" FROMME.....	Shauna Clark
SARA JANE MOORE.....	Jen Mercer
JOHN HINCKLEY.....	Aaron Fantacone
LEE HARVEY OSWALD/BALLADEER.....	Xander Lawless
EMMA GOLDMAN/BALLADEER.....	Heather Starling
ENSEMBLE/BALLADEER.....	Christine Phillips
PROPRIETOR/BALLADEER.....	Brandon Hines

THE CREW

DIRECTOR.....	Bradley Akers
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	Anthony Felton
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....	Daniel Starling
PRODUCTION/STAGE MANAGER.....	Sam Hannigan
RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER.....	Gabriel Neil Barnert
SCENIC DESIGNER.....	Bradley Akers
PROPS DESIGNER.....	Katie Cress
COSTUME DESIGNER.....	Olivia Montalbano
SOUND DESIGNER.....	Erik Anderson
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....	Del Ward

ASSASSINS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

The use of photography, audio, or video recording is **strictly prohibited**.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

DANIEL AUSTIN (John Wilkes Booth) DANIEL AUSTIN is grateful to return to the 'Dime after appearing in Company, A New Brain, All New People, and more – as well as directing Small Mouth Sounds and How I Learned to Drive. Daniel directs eight shows a year at The Bolles School, where he creates original performances for PK-5th Grade (Go Bulldogs). Other local highlights include Something Rotten!, Clue, Peter and the Starcatcher (Theatre Jacksonville), Angels in America, HAIR (PBTS), and Merrily We Roll Along (ABET). Appreciation to Bradley and team for this chance to tell an interesting and thought-provoking story. R, you're my reason. Cheers to keeping theatre (a)live!

JOSH WALLER (Charles Guiteau) No stranger to The 5 & Dime stage, Josh Waller returns having previously been seen as Marvin in Falsettos, Bobby in Company, Gordon in A New Brain, Hedwig in Hedwig and the Angry Inch, and many others. He was most recently seen as Thomas in Alabama Story at ABET. Some of his other favorite roles include Bruce in Fun Home (Limelight), Nick Bottom in Something Rotten (Theatre Jax), Burrs in The Wild Party (PBTS), and Charley in Merrily We Roll Along (ABET). His performance is dedicated to Shirley Sacks Kirby who fostered his love for Assassins.

CHRIS ROBERTSON (Leon Czolgosz) Chris is gunning to open his first Five and Dime production, Assassins! He was recently seen in ABET'S production of Murder Ballad as Michael. Favorite past performances include Kinky Boots, Sweeney Todd (2008), Next to Normal and Parade! As always Chris would like to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support.

RICHE ROSADO (Giuseppe Zangara) Richie Rosado is a UF Musical Theatre graduate making another appearance on The 5 & Dime stage! He was last seen in Clue as Professor Plum, Donny in Just Desserts. He is happy to break his year hiatus with a show as deep as this one. He would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support, and dedicates this performance to his dog Cookie in heaven. He wishes many broken legs to the cast of Assassins! @richeonstage

RON SHREVE (Samuel Byck) Ron Shreve- is truly humbled and excited to get to be in his first 5 & Dime production. He thanks Bradley for the opportunity to play a character that allows him to stretch his talents and thanks this amazing cast for being such a diabolical and playful group. And of course always grateful to do what he loves with who he loves, D! Previous acting credits include Pippin (Pippin) at Theatre Jacksonville, Something Rotten (Bard Boy) and Peter and the Starcatcher (Boy).

SHAUNA CLARK (Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme) Shauna Clark is a graduate of JU (BFA in Musical Theatre, 2018), she has been seen in several shows across Northeast Florida. Her credits include Susan & others in TTB (The 5 & Dime), Margo in Bright Star (ABET), Sally Brown in Snoopy! (ABET) James in James and the Giant Peach (ABET), Rosamund in The Robber Bridegroom (ABET), Sophie in Mamma Mia! (Theatre Jacksonville), Cinderella in Into the Woods (JU), and Little Sally in Urinetown (JU), Shauna would like to thank The 5 & Dime, and her family, friends, and Bradley for the love and support. Love you Pop Pop

JEN MERCER (Sara Jane Moore) Jen Mercer is excited to make her 5 & Dime debut with this bang-up group of Assassins! Jen, a Theatre/ Vocal Performance graduate, is a member of Actors' Equity, and privately teaches voice. Jacksonville credits include Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey), Violet (Violet), and The Prom (Dee Dee). Other favorites: Into the Woods (Little Red), A Children's Hour (Karen), and as a character vocalist at Walt Disney World. She thanks Bradley and Daniel for their direction and care, extends great appreciation to her castmates and crew (Sam!), & much love to her family for always encouraging her to shoot her shot.

AARON FANTACONE (John Hinckley) Aaron Fantacone is thrilled to perform in his first show at The Five & Dime! He recently earned his B.A. in Theatre Arts at Flagler College, where he performed in shows such as in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (William Barfé) Every Brilliant Thing (Narrator,) and Cinderella (Lord Pinkleton.)



GIVING FOR GROWTH: ELEVATING THE 5 & DIME'S FUTURE

Dear Patron,

The winds of change have blown steadily through the sails of The 5 & Dime, propelling us into new and exciting horizons. Since 2011, our journey has been one of evolution and transformation, a journey that is essential for success and endurance in the world of theatre.



Sheehy's words are much like a strong gust of wind; they may bring some unease at first, but they soon settle into a refreshing and invigorating breeze that pushes us forward.

As your new Managing Artistic Director, I am humbled by the opportunity to lead this remarkable company and move forward to embrace these changes!

For 2024, we've set our sights on three remarkable goals that will not only shape the future of The 5 & Dime but also infuse our community with endless potential:

- Continue to tell stories that engage and inspire
- Ongoing organizational restructuring to further support our staff and volunteers
- Find a permanent space

Our 2024 Season revolves around the human experience, the power of the arts, and the boundless potential when we come together. It encapsulates our belief that stories have the power to change lives, ignite conversations, and inspire action. And action is exactly what we need from YOU!

This year, we have an incredible opportunity to double the impact of your generosity. **AN ANONYMOUS DONOR HAS PLEDGED TO MATCH ALL DONATIONS UP TO \$20,000!** That means that every dollar you contribute will be doubled. Your \$20 becomes \$40, your \$100 becomes \$200, and so on. This matching grant has the potential to bring us closer to our dreams and aspirations, and only YOU can make it happen!

Every donation, no matter the size, contributes to the growth and vitality of The 5 & Dime. It symbolizes your belief in the transformative power of the arts and your commitment to our mission of nurturing a rich artistic culture in Jacksonville. It is an investment in people, in the power of storytelling, and in the boundless possibilities that lie ahead.

On behalf of the board and staff, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for being a part of The 5 & Dime. Your endless support is the very backbone of our establishment, making these winds of change not only achievable but also profoundly meaningful. Our gratitude knows no bounds.

Sincerely,
Bethany Paolini

HOW
TO
GIVE

1

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ASK THE BOX OFFICE (OR ANYONE WITH
A 5&D NAME TAG) AND THEY'LL BE HAPPY
TO ASSIST YOU!

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WWW.THESANDIME.ORG



2024 MAINSTAGE SEASON

THE 5 & DIME
A THEATRE COMPANY

POTUS URINETOWN THE MUSICAL

the ripple,
the wave
that carried me home

LIZZIE THE MUSICAL

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
www.the5anddime.org



ABOUT THE COMPANY

He is grateful to be able to tell this story with such an amazing cast and crew. He would also like to thank his friends and family for always supporting him along the way!

XANDER LAWLESS (Lee Harvey Oswald/Balladeer) Xander is thrilled to be performing alongside many friends in his first ever 5 and dime show. Some of his more recent roles include Leaf Coneybear, Buck Barrow, and Rodolpho. Much thanks to Bradley, Daniel, Sam, Anthony and the entire cast for bringing their A game every day. He would also like to thank his family and friends for being awesome and his girlfriend for being an excellent stage partner in crime.

HEATHER STARLING (Balladeer/Emma Goldman) Heather Starling is thrilled to be in her first production with the 5 & Dime, where she currently serves as the Volunteer Coordinator. Some of her favorite previous roles include Judy in 9 to 5, Lucy in Jekyll and Hyde, Mary in Jesus Christ Superstar, Pickles in Great American Trailer Park, and Columbia in Rocky Horror Picture Show. Heather would like to thank Bradley and Daniel for their constant love and support and thanks to this crazy talented cast for making such a strange show so enjoyable. Love you Balladeer Babies! .

CHRISTINE PHILLIPS (Balladeer) After taking some time to work backstage, Christine is finally ready to jump back on stage for this thrilling Sondheim show. Some of her favorite roles include Olive Ostrovsky, Blanche, and Jo March. She would like to thank this talented cast for keeping her on her toes and pushing her to become the best performer she can be. She would also

like to thank the dream team of Bradley, Daniel, Sam, and Anthony for creating such a fantastic rehearsal process. And of course, thank you to her friends and family for their unending support and her extremely talented boyfriend for agreeing to do this show with her.

BRANDON HINES (Proprietor/Balladeer) Brandon is proud to be back on The 5 and Dime Stage. Some of his stage credits include, ABET's Violet(Leroy Evans), ABET's The Robber Bridegroom(Clement Musgrove), The 5 and Dime Theatre company's Company(Harry), Players by the sea's(pbts) production of American Idiot (Theo), PBTS's Memphis (Gator), PBTS's La Cage Aux Folles(Hanna), PBTS's Aida(ensemble), PBTS's Little Shop Of Horrors(Urchin), Greenlight Theater Company's PROM(Barry Glickman). Brandon would like to thank Bradley, Anthony, and the entire production team for this amazing opportunity and his friends and family for their support.

BRADLEY AKERS (Director) Bradley Akers is a freelance director, designer (graphic + technical), and the Managing Director of Players by the Sea. Directing credits include Doubt, Chicago, Parade, The Thanksgiving Play, The Harvest, Fun Home, The Robber Bridegroom, Heathers, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, The Walls, 'night, Mother, Into the Woods, The Last 5 Years, Almost, Maine, Godspell, AIDA, The Lyons, and Dog Sees God. Much love to his tribe (SC, DA, MA, LC, GB, ZR, SH, BH, MC, WB, TBus, Limit15 and all 582 members of the Akers + Bailey families.) IG: @bradleydirects

SPECIAL THANKS

The Florida Ballet, DeeAnne Crookham, Peter Guadagnino
Martha & Eli Bekkum, Aaron Fantacone & Rea Natzel, Mike Kitaif
Judelyn Dixon, The Bolles School
Players by the Sea, ABET, Theatre Jacksonville, Limelight Theatre

ABOUT THE COMPANY

GABRIEL NEIL BARNERT (Lighting Designer)

Gabriel is excited to be working again at The 5 & Dime! He is a recent Flagler College graduate where he received his BA in Theatre Arts and minored in Arts Administration. Gabriel's work spreads from stage management to lighting, set, and sound design. Some of his past favorite shows he's worked on are tick, tick... BOOM!, Spelling Bee, All My Sons, and The Revolutionists. He would like to thank his family and extraordinary girlfriend for their continuous support. Enjoy the show!

ERIK ANDERSON (Sound Design)

Erik is thrilled to be back designing sound at 5&D after a brief hiatus. Having previously designed multiple shows here, his return began with 5&D's 2023 season, including Let Me Down Easy, Clyde's, and For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday. He hopes to continue working with this amazing team for years to come! Erik is also a writer/performer with Awkward Silence Jax, Jacksonville's premier sketch comedy troupe.

SAM HANNIGAN (Stage Management)

Sam is excited to be working again with The 5 & Dime! For the entirety of the 2023 Season, Sam is the theatre's Production Manager. Her costuming credits include A Chorus Line, Memphis, Flashdance (Gateway Playhouse), A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Rimers of Eldritch, South Pacific (Florida Southern College). Stage Management credits include Secret Garden (Florida Southern College) and Short Attention Span Theatre Festival, Clyde's (The 5 & Dime.) As an actor, Sam has appeared in A Chorus Line, Almost, Maine, Stepping Out, and Julius Caesar.

OLIVIA MONTALBANO (Costume Design)

Olivia Montalbano is delighted to join the creative team of Assassins as Costume Mistress. Olivia is a Jacksonville native and alumna of Jacksonville University where she participated on and offstage while earning her BFA in a theatre arts. This is her first time working with the 5 & Dime and it has been an honor to collaborate with such talented and kindhearted people. She thanks you for supporting Jacksonville's performing arts community and she hopes you enjoy the show!

ANTHONY FELTON (Music Direction)

A native of Jacksonville Florida, pianist/vocalist Anthony Jerrod Felton is acclaimed for his performances with both Vocal and Instrumental colleagues alike throughout the east coast. Anthony Felton began his professional studies at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts under the tutelage of Russian pianist Vera Watson. Mr. Felton is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he holds both Bachelor and Master Degrees. While pursuing his master's degree under the wing and tutelage of Canadian pianist Dr. Allison Gagnon, he served as staff accompanist for the Alabama State Concerto Competition, mock audition accompanist for the Fletcher Opera Institute, and accompanist for the North Carolina district Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Anthony has had the privilege of serving as Musical Director for the Broadway Musicals throughout the years and is grateful for the path his musical career as has taken him.: *Fame, Annie, Color Purple, Smokey Joe Café, Nunsense, Bye Bye Birdie, Joseph and the Amazing Techno-colored Dream Coat, Bingo, 13 the musical, Miracle on 34th Street, Title of Show* to name a few

DANIEL STARLING (Asst. Direction)

Daniel is thrilled to help bring this dark and important Sondheim piece to life. Though this is his first show with the 5 & Dime, some of his recent credits include Asst. Director of Murder Ballad at ABET, Seymour in Little Shop of Horrors at OPCT, and Co-director of Bright Star at ABET. He is so grateful to work with such an accomplished and talented cast, especially his wife Heather.

KATIE CRESS (Prop Design)

Katie is excited to be a part of the Assassins crew! She feels right at home with the 5&Dime and is always happy to help tell incredible stories with them. You may have caught her lurking behind the curtains in productions such as Xanadu (ABET), Tick, Tick... Boom! (5&D), Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday (5&D) and Escape to Margaritaville (ABET). She would like to thank Bradley and this incredible team for giving her the opportunity to help bring this production to life. And of course, she would like to thank her husband for his endless support!

GIVING FOR GROWTH!

In 2024, we've set three goals to shape our future:

1. We will continue telling engaging and inspiring stories.
2. We will make ongoing organizational restructuring a priority.
3. Will find a permanent space and home for the company!

Your donation, no matter the size, has profound meaning. Scan the QR code to play a part in the future growth of The 5 & Dime!



People. Power. Possibility.