

ASSASSINS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

ASSASSINS IS A MUSICAL THAT CHALLENGES THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF OUR EXCEPTIONALIST AMERICAN NARRATIVES OF OUR OWN HISTORY. INSTEAD OF TREATING THESE SUCCESSFUL & NOT SUCCESSFUL ASSASSINS AS SIMPLY "CRAZY," MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE, ASSASSINS INSISTS ON SEEING THESE MEN AND WOMEN AS REFLECTIONS AND PRODUCTS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY. THEIR ACTIONS, WHILE HORRIFIC, REPRESENT A DIRECT ACTION, AN ATTEMPT TO STAKE THEIR CLAIM, MAKE THEIR POINT, HAVE THEIR VOICES BE HEARD. THEY REPRESENT A MANIFESTATION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM THE PUBLIC WANTS TO BURRY UNDER THE RUG, IMPRISON, EXECUTE AND ERADICATE. WE IGNORE THEIR VOICES AT OUR OWN PERIL AND THIS MUSICAL INSISTS ON GIVING VOICE TO THOSE TOO EASILY LABELED AND PACKAGED AS VILLAIN OR CRAZY AND TRIES TO CREATE A SPACE WHERE THEY CAN BE HEARD.

DESIGN

MY DESIGN REPRESENTS THE UNSTABLE WORLD THAT THESE ASSASSINS ARE LIVING IN. THE 19' SLANTED WALLS HOVER OVER THE STAGE AND ENVELOPE THE SET, TELL THEIR STORIES, AND SYMBOLIZE REPRESSION THAT IS IMPOSED BY THE SYSTEM AND FORCING THESE ASSASSINS TO COMMIT SUCH DREADFUL ACTIONS. THE INNER SPACE CONSIST OF MULTIPLE LEVELS THAT ALLOW THE ASSASSINS TO LURK AND OBSERVE WHAT IS HAPPENING AT ALL TIMES. THE ENTRANCES AND EXITS ALLOW THE ACTORS TO APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR SEAMLESSLY INTO DARKNESS BEHIND STRUCTURES. THE LIGHTING PROVIDES THE SORT OF A MOOD THAT ALMOST LOOK CHEERY, BUT IMMEDIATELY SHIFTS TO A DARKER WORLD. THE PROJECTED IMAGES AND ANIMATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE THE SETTING SHIFT THROUGH THE TIME & LOCATIONS EFFORTLESSLY.



RESEARCH

I TOOK MY STUDENTS TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON DC WHERE WE SCANNED AND PHOTOGRAPHED HUNDREDS OF ORIGINAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ABOUT THE ASSASSINATIONS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS FROM 1865 TO 1981. THESE ARTICLES WERE STUDIED IN DETAILS, DESIGNED, AND PRINTED IN LARGE FORMATS TO COVER THE WALLS OF THE SET.

