



Assassins cast members rehearse a musical number at Southern Tier Community Theatre. Cast members include (from left) Nicholas Youngs, Angela Emley, Al Bernstein, Luke Rodney Stebbins, Bill Steffen, Tanaka Losey and Adam Losey.



THEATRE TO PUT ON 'ASSASSINS'

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Olean Community Theatre look into villainous minds with 'Assassins' production

OLEAN — Ever wanted to know the people behind some of the slayings of our nation's leaders? The Olean Community Theatre has a production for you.

'Assassins,' the second show of Olean Community Theatre's 38th season, is set to open at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the John Ash Community Center in Olean. The show will continue at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, as well as 2 p.m. April 30 will cap off the run of this Stephen Sondheim musical.

'Assassins' showcases work by John Weidman, and uses historic information about those who attempted to or successfully assassinated a sitting U.S. president to flesh out characters and motivations. Unlike the feel-good memories of summer carnival games of ring toss and win-

ning big stuffed animals, this carnival game is deadly.

Musical director, Eric VanDruff, appears on stage as the Balladier. He noted, "Some will be pleased and entertained by the music. Some will be disturbed by the message, but everyone will walk away feeling something."

The show is an adult production with violence, and also contains mature language.

The cast of 26 area residents will have six weeks of rehearsal time by curtain call. The first five weeks were spent rehearsing in the cafeteria of Southern Tier Archbishop Walsh. The nature of the show required performers to study what has been written by the characters they portray, including John Wilkes Booth, Lee Harvey Oswald, Lynette

"Squeaky" Fromme and John Hinkley.

Director Jake Riggs, a familiar name in both Olean Community Theatre and Olean Theatre Workshop shows, said he "fell in love" with this particular show at Towson State University and has wanted to help put a production of it on ever since.

When asked what he hopes the audience will take away from the experience, Riggs responded, "To get a glimpse of the other side of the coin, in a fun and musical way."

Actor Luke YerpeStock said he expects to hear "nervous laughter" in the audience.

"It's the kind of show that's funny, but you're never sure if it's supposed to be funny or not," he said.

There will be no intermission, and refreshments

will be available after the show.

Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for seniors and those under 18. Tickets may be purchased at Studio 4 East, Allegany; The Perfect Blend Coffeeshop and Eatery, Cuba; The Hollamby Agency, Portville; Tina's Hallmark, Olean Center Mall. Tickets may also be purchased at www.oleancommunitytheatre.com.

Subscription information is available by calling 375-1628.

Also featured for performances on Thursday and Friday evening will be Bobby Sader of Allegany Woodworking.

A prelude to the performance will begin approximately 30 minutes before curtain with Mary Kay Worth as the Carnival Barker.