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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIGNATURE PRESENTS STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S ASSASSINS

- **Helmed by 2006 Helen Hayes Award-winning director of *Urinetown***
- **Final Sondheim production in Signature's converted garage space**

Arlington, VA — Signature Theatre presents *Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman, the 2004 Tony® Award-winning show (Best Revival, Musical) that gives new meaning to the phrase “killer musical.” *Assassins* provides a darkly-comic, captivating look at the lives, loves, and lunacy of nine infamous American assassins — from John Wilkes Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald to John Hinckley Jr. — who attempted, successfully or not, to take the lives of American Presidents. One of the most innovative musicals in years, Sondheim's score ranges from folk to ragtime to big Broadway ballads. Bold, gripping, and provocative, *Assassins* proves that “Everybody's Got a Right” to their dreams. The 2006 Helen Hayes Award-winning creative team behind Signature's sold-out hit production of *Urinetown* reunite with **Joe Calarco** once again at the helm. *Assassins* runs **May 30 – July 16, 2006**, at Signature Theatre, 3806 S. Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA 22206. Tickets are now on sale through **Tickets.com (800) 955-5566** and online at **www.signature-theatre.org**.

Signature Theatre is nationally recognized as one of the leading producers of musical theatre in America. From Signature's break-out hit production of *Sweeney Todd* in 1991 (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Musical) to last season's intimate version of *Pacific Overtures* (Helen Hayes nomination, Outstanding Musical), critics and audiences rave about Signature's definitive Stephen Sondheim productions. *Assassins* marks Signature's fifteenth Sondheim production in the Theatre's 17-year history, and the final in the converted garage space on South Four Mile Run Drive. In October, Signature's staff moves into a new \$12.5 million two-theater complex that will open to audiences in January with a production of Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

In preparation for directing *Assassins*, **Joe Calarco** pondered the questions, “What is it about *Assassins* that attracts audiences? Why should audiences care about a deranged group of misfits?” His goal with this production is to blur the line between “us” and “them.” “After all,” Calarco said, “don't all of us at one time or another in our lives feel like sad misfits, all desperately grasping for the American Dream? I would venture to say, that up until the moment these assassins actually ‘pull the trigger,’ we're all more alike than different. It is for this reason that *Assassins* is such a daring piece of theatre. It asks us not only to watch a group of assassins, but to truly look at ourselves.”

DIRECTION & DESIGN

Director **Joe Calarco** and Signature Theatre have proven be a winning combination. Three of the four productions Calarco has directed at Signature received the Helen Hayes Award for either Outstanding Musical or Play, as well as Outstanding Director: *Urinetown*, *Side Show* and *Nijinsky's Last Dance*. Select additional credits include *Elegies* at Signature (Helen Hayes

— MORE —

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nomination, Outstanding Musical), and Off-Broadway productions of *Shakespeare's R&J* (adaptor/director, Lucille Lortel Award), *Boy, in the absence of spring*, *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and *The Summer of the Swans*.

Joining Calarco are a team he is very familiar with: musical director **Jon Kalbfleisch** (Signature's Resident Musical Director; *Pacific Overtures*, *The Highest Yellow*, *Allegro*, *Follies*, eleven Helen Hayes nominations and three-time recipient), choreographer **Karma Camp** (2006 Helen Hayes Award for *Urinetown*; *Nijinsky's Last Dance*, *Follies*, *110 in the Shade*, *Cabaret*), set designer **James Kronzer** (*Urinetown*, *Elegies*, *in the absence of spring*, *Floyd Collins*; seven-time Helen Hayes Award recipient), costume designer **Anne Kennedy** (*Urinetown*, *The Highest Yellow*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Fix*), lighting designer **Chris Lee** (*Urinetown*, *Elegies*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *in the absence of spring*, *Sideshow*), and sound designer **Tony Angelini** (*The Sex Habits of American Women*, *Nevermore*, *Urinetown*, *Elegies*, *Allegro*).

CAST

The ensemble features numerous Signature favorites: **Matt Conner** (*Nevermore* composer, *Pacific Overtures*, *A Funny Thing... Forum*), **Erin Driscoll** (2006 Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Lead Actress for *Urinetown*), **Daniel Felton** (*Pacific Overtures*, *Side Show*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Over & Over*, *The Fix*), **Will Gartshore** (*The Sex Habits of American Women*, 2006 Helen Hayes Award for *Urinetown*, *Elegies*, *Allegro*, *Follies*, *Grand Hotel*), **Peter Joshua** (*Passion*, *A Little Night Music*), **Donna Migliaccio** (*Urinetown*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Follies*, *Gypsy*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods*), **Tally Sessions** (*Gospel According to Fishman*), and **Stephen Gregory Smith** (*Pacific Overtures*, *The Highest Yellow*, *One Red Flower*, *Allegro*, and 2004 Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Supporting Actor for *110 in the Shade*),.

New to the Signature stage are young actors **Ethan Ableman** (Children's Chorus of Washington, Opening Ceremonies of the National Cherry Blossom Festival) and **Bradley Bowers** (Olney: lead in *Oliver!*, Hippodrome Theatre: *Joseph...Dreamcoat*) who are alternating performances, **Doug Bowles** (Olney: *She Loves Me*, Opera Roanoke: *Kismet*, *Otello*, *The Magic Flute*), **Andy Brownstein** (Rorschach Theatre: *Behold!*, Journeymen Theatre Ensemble: *An Experiment with an Air Pump*), **Priscilla Cuellar** (Imagination Stage: *Seussical*), **Mika Duncan** (*Trumbo* Off-Broadway with Christopher Lloyd and national tour with Brian Dennehy), **Kathryn Fuller** (Keegan Theatre: *Suddenly Last Summer*, Theatre Alliance: *Red Suspenders*), **Diego Prieto** (Arena Stage: *Señor Discretion*, *Himself* and *Damn Yankees*), and **Steve Tipton** (Interact Theatre Company: *The Pirates of Penzance*, Round House Theatre: *A Year with Frog and Toad*).

ASSASSINS

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman

Directed by Joe Calarco

CAST

Billy Moore	Ethan Ableman or Bradley Bowers
Samuel Byck	Andy Brownstein
John Hinckley	Matt Conner
Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme	Erin Driscoll
Charles Guiteau	Mika Duncan
Emma Goldman	Kathryn Fuller
John Wilkes Booth	Will Gartshore
Giuseppe Zangara	Peter Joshua

—MORE—

Sara Jane Moore
Leon Czolgosz
The Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald
The Proprietor
Ensemble

Donna Migliaccio
Tally Sessions
Stephen Gregory Smith
Steve Tipton
Doug Bowles, Priscilla Cuellar, Daniel Felton, Kathryn Fuller,
Diego Prieto

DESIGN AND DIRECTION

Director	Joe Calarco	Lighting Designer	Chris Lee
Music Director	Jon Kalbfleisch	Sound Designer	Tony Angelini
Choreographer	Karma Camp	Stage Manager	Kerry Epstein
Set Designer	James Kronzer	Asst Stage Manager	Taryn J. Colberg
Costume Designer	Anne Kennedy		

SCHEDULE

FIRST FIVE WEEKS ALREADY SOLD OUT!

May 30 – July 16, 2006

Press Date: Sunday, June 4

Show Times: Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: No show Tuesday, July 4. Special July 4th weekend performance Monday, July 3 at 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS

Tickets are **\$31 to \$55** and are available by calling **Tickets.com (800) 955-5566** and can also be purchased online at **www.signature-theatre.org**. Discounts available for students, seniors (60+), military and groups of ten or more. The Signature Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and during performances.

SIGNATURE THEATRE

Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theatre dedicated to producing contemporary plays and musicals and to the development of new work. Now in its 16th season under Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, Signature has been nominated for 209 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theatre and has been honored with 50 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2005, 2006 and Outstanding Play in 1999. Signature Theatre is a member of the Theatre Communications Group, The League of Washington Theatres, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, the Arlington Arts Alliance, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

DIRECTIONS

Signature Theatre is located just five miles from downtown Washington, D.C. at 3806 South Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington, VA immediately off I-395 at the Shirlington exit.

CONTACT INFO

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