



## ASSASSINS

I hate to break it to you but not all musicals have a happy ending. Take a moment, it's a hard truth to accept. Exhibit A: Warehouse Theatre Company's 'Assassins'.

A story of hope, dreams and cold-blooded murder, Stephen Sondheim's musical tells the true(ish) story behind the murder plots of nine assassins who took out some of America's most notorious political heavyweights. While they each claim to have a different reason for shooting their target, all of their stories are underpinned with a sense of injustice. These are characters that've been denied what was promised to them - equality, fame, fortune. So they do what any person would do in their place, they drive a white picket through the American Dream.

Stephen Sondheim's powerful score and sharp social satire gets a good workout by the Warehouse cast, the majority of whom are under 30. It's a tight ensemble of young performers with plenty of attitude but the stand-out performance is given by Penny Farrow as Sara Jane Moore. Farrow's every appearance re-energised the stage and her deft comic timing left the audience shrieking with laughter.

Behind the scenes, Kat Henry's direction was a little stilted and moments of high theatricality were left a little lacklustre. But her knack for withdrawing intense and meaningful performances from her cast meant that the tiny cracks went (for the most part) relatively unnoticed. Tegan Cumerford and her orchestra sounded fantastic.

'Assassins' is a romp through America's checkered past; giving its audience a quick glimpse at some of the figures that won't gel with the United States Red, White & Blue philosophy. Loud, gutsy and bold, it's a work that deserves attention and is sure to be one of this year's must-see productions.

Dan Evans

'Assassins' plays at the Cremorne Theatre until June 18