

arts & entertainment news

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TONIGHT AT  
**LAKE SUMTER LANDING  
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TONIGHT AT  
**BROWNWOOD  
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**Earthbeat**

A classic dance band featuring country, rock and Motown hits.

LOS ANGELES

**Rolling Stones Plan  
North American Tour  
Beginning in May**

The Rolling Stones are returning to some North American cities where they haven't played in years. The band announced Thursday that it will kick off a 15-city leg of its No Filter tour in San Diego on May 8. Other cities where the band will play that it hasn't performed in recently include Cleveland; St. Louis; Austin, Texas; Louisville, Kentucky; Charlotte, North Carolina; Tampa; and Vancouver, British Columbia.

— The Associated Press

**Backstage Pass**

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

**Musical  
Explanations  
Are at the  
Heart of  
'Assassins'**

Sondheim and John Weidman's "Assassins," a musical that puts every person who assassinated or attempted to assassinate a U.S. president in one room, from Abraham Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth to Ronald Reagan's attempted assassin John Hinckley.

At the beginning of the show, they gather on a carnival-like set under eerie lighting and a general ambience that can only be described as the embodiment of broken American dreams.

The Proprietor, who is a bit like the ringmaster in this dark and abstract dimension, equips them all with a weapon and tells them that killing a president will solve all of their problems, which are mostly personal.

Samuel Byck wants someone to listen. Charles Guiteau wants to be the ambassador to France. John Hinckley wants to marry Jodie Foster. Giuseppe Zangara has a stomachache.

And there you have it. Now add the music of Sondheim, a Balladeer to tell their stories and the disjointed, yet present underlying messages

Please See **NEXT PAGE**



Submitted photo

"Assassins," now running at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol, is a musical that puts every person who assassinated or attempted to assassinate a U.S. president in one room.



**HOW  
DO I BUY  
TICKETS?**

The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at its four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

All box office locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Spanish Springs:** 970 Del Mar Drive

**Lake Sumter Landing:** 1070 Canal St.

**Brownwood:** 2726 Brownwood Blvd.

**Savannah Center:** 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd.



**THEATER REVIEW**

By *Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun*

They're the hopeless, the lost, the exiled, the expatriates in their own country.

As Samuel Byck, who attempted to assassinate Richard Nixon, puts it, "No one listens."

Well, now the assassins finally get a chance to explain themselves.

On Wednesday, I attended The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol's production of Stephen

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We had so much fun with the farmhouse style we thought we would add a little brother! This house boasts barnyard animals and family style dining. After dinner, everyone will want to go in and play games and work on puzzles that never seem to get finished. You can almost hear the cows mooing and grazing in the fields.

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CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



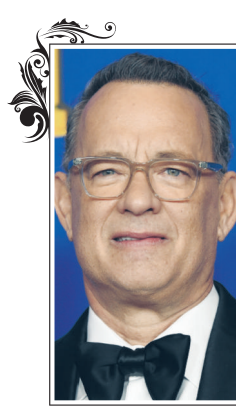
**GAYLE KING**

In the wake of a social media backlash, CBS' Gayle King says she is embarrassed and angry with how the network promoted part of her interview with WNBA star Lisa Leslie that concerned the late Kobe Bryant.



**KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY**

The actor is transitioning out of over-the-top comedies to focus more on dramatic films, and for him, it's no laughing matter. During the past few years, he's worked himself back into drama shape, culminating in a huge 2019.



**TOM HANKS**

Hanks is among the presenters who will take the Oscars stage at the Dolby Theatre during Sunday's ceremony. The producers said they are grateful to have a dynamic group of presenters for an exciting show.

NEW YORK

**Prosecutors Rest Case in Weinstein's Trial on Rape Charges**

Prosecutors in Harvey Weinstein's rape trial rested their case Thursday after more than two weeks of testimony punctuated by harrowing accounts from six women, including some who said he ignored pleas of "no, no, no" and justified his behavior as the cost of getting ahead in Hollywood. Now Weinstein's lawyers will start calling witnesses of their own as the landmark celebrity trial moves one step closer to a verdict. — *The Associated Press*



**Elias Wygodny plays John Wilkes Booth in "Assassins" at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol.**

Submitted photo

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questioning the American Dream and what it means to be an individual.

"Assassins" displays the blurred line between our personal and political beliefs and what happens when those beliefs are taken too far.

Would I recommend seeing this musical? Absolutely.

"Assassins" is a show beautifully intertwined with dark comedy, the other side of history and a complex score.

The Studio's production is fantastic. From the attentive lighting that changes fluidly with the mood of the show to the live band and the completely polished vocals and acting delivered by every single member of the cast, it's obvious to any viewer that this show was carefully and lovingly crafted by the cast and crew.

During intermission, I asked Village of Tamarind Grove neighbors Lynnette

Fulk and Marsha Sigwart what they thought.

"It's very interesting," Fulk said. "I thought the music was good and the voices are excellent."

"I like the humor," Sigwart added.

"Assassins" is the third and perhaps the most highly anticipated show of season 4 at The Studio Theatre.

Those with PTSD or a dislike for loud noises should be aware that the production uses stage guns, but they pose no threat and are handled professionally and carefully.

"Assassins" opened Jan. 24 and runs until March 1. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

Senior writer Kristen Fiore can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

**Women Vying For Oscars Salute Their Progress, Snubs Aside**

By LYNN ELBER  
*The Associated Press*

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.

The mood at Diane von Furstenberg's lunch honoring this year's female Oscar contenders could have been downbeat, given the shutout of women directors for Sunday's awards. Instead, it was celebratory and defiant.

The 30-plus nominees who gathered at von Furstenberg's home, tucked into elegant and secluded grounds, cheered as the women spoke in turn. Laura Dern, a best supporting actress nominee for "Marriage Story,"

kicked things off Wednesday by recalling von Furstenberg's first nominees' lunch six years ago.

A single couch was enough to hold the handful of women, Dern told the packed room, adding, "I look forward to that entire garden to be filled in a few years!"

Von Furstenberg and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences CEO Dawn Hudson said a record 67 nominations went to women this year, which Hudson called representative of a trend in the academy that has long tilted heavily male. Half the newly invited members are women, she said, and the leadership is changing as well.

"When I started with the academy nine years ago there were six female governors, and it was hard for our voices to be heard around the big table," Hudson said. "And today there

are 25."

Greta Gerwig, excluded from the best director category for "Little Women" despite its best-picture bid, was on hand briefly before dashing out, it was explained, to get back home to her baby.

"That's OK. As long as she gets the Oscar," a guest called out. Gerwig is a nominee for best adapted screenplay.

Former studio chief Amy Pascal, who produced "Little Women," offered an industry

veteran's perspective.

"On behalf of Greta and myself, yeah, it would have been better if she got nominated. But 'Little Women' is the third movie in the history of the Oscars that is produced, directed and written" by women, Pascal said, drawing applause.

Krysty Wilson-Cairns, who earned a best original screenplay nod for "1917," said the film has been her passport to many parties and some telling moments.

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