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SEARCH

'Spring Awakening' shakes up Stanford theater

By Katharine Schwab April 12, 2013

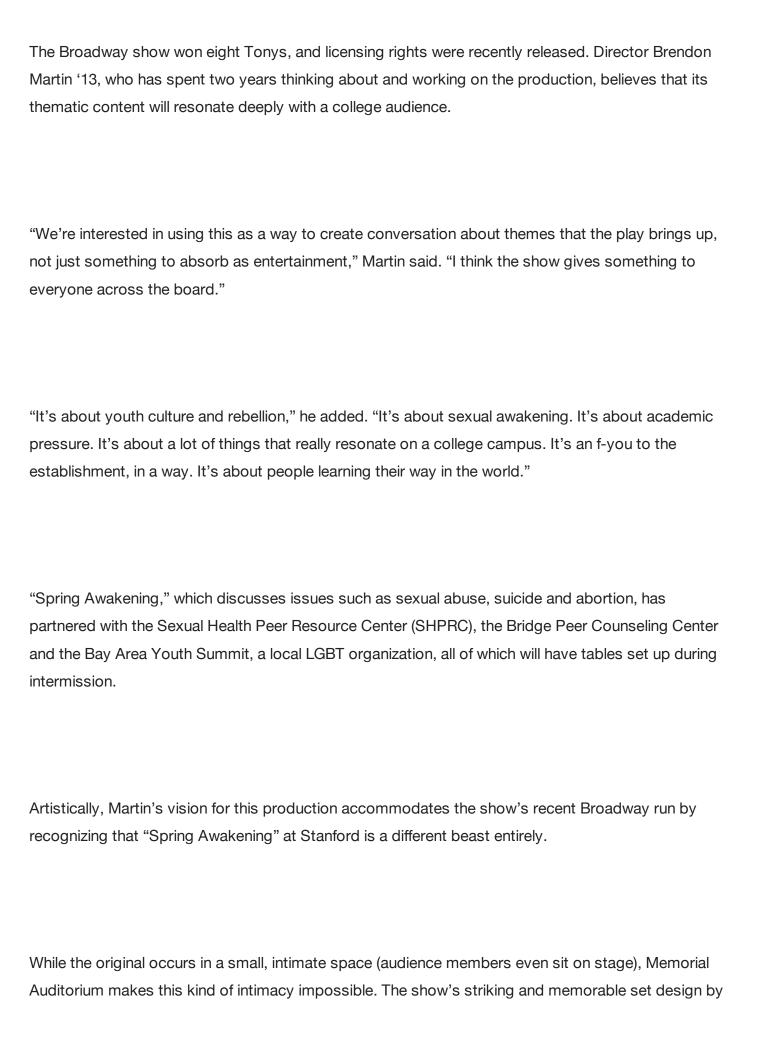
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Ram's Head presents "Spring Awakening," a rebellious rock musical that packs an emotional punch. Based on the 1891 play, "Spring Awakening" follows young adolescents as they struggle to reconcile their emerging sexuality within the contexts of authoritarian parental and academic pressure in a small German town. The musical, in which the play's monologues and intellectual discourses are transformed into emotionally-driven rock numbers and ballads, follows



MADELINE SIDES/The Stanford Daily

Wendla, Melchior and Moritz, three youths as they begin the sexual-awakening transition from childhood to adulthood.



Annie Dauber '13 embraces a different aesthetic. The set is based on an abandoned church, complete with stained-glass rose window. The church represents the establishment, and the set's grandeur and openness become oppressive and daunting, paralleling the thematic oppression of the characters. The actors move pew-like wooden benches to create each scene, revealing their characters' attempts to manipulate and appropriate an institutional space for their own expression.

"Spring Awakening" is also reimagined through its inventive choreography, meant to cater to the larger space and the expanded cast. Jamie Yuen-Shore '13 uses precise movement to effectively enhance the music's emotive power and supplement character development. Stars Arianna Vogel '14, graduate student Buddy Gardineer and James Seifert '15 lead an extraordinarily talented cast, skillfully navigating between raw, emotionally heavy scenes and scenes of irreverence and rebellion.

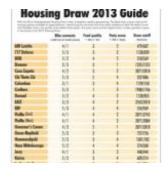
This is a production that all Stanford students should see. Beyond being musically and emotionally rich and visually stunning, "Spring Awakening" is intimately relevant to the pressures we face as young adults beginning to navigate the world. And if you don't go for the German teenage angst, go for the sex. In the words of producer Brandon Powell '14, "People who like musicals love this show, and people who don't like musicals love this show. It's not a standard musical: there's a rock band and they say 'fuck' and they sing 'blah' and they have sex on stage."

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