

Spring Awakening

Auditions!

Spring Awakening
Book & Lyrics by Steven Sater.
Music by Duncan Sheik.

Performance dates: 9–19 May 2012

The Bridewell Theatre
Bride Lane, Fleet Street
London EC4Y 8EQ

Director: Chris Warner
Musical Director: Ryan Macaulay
Producer: Angharad Davies
Creative Director: Max Wilson
Choreographer: Tim Garrad
Assistant Director: Chloë Faine

Workshop: 12 January
Auditions: 19–22, 25, 26 January



Spring Awakening

An Introduction

Based on Frank Wedekind's masterpiece, Spring Awakening is the contemporary musical adaptation of one of literature's most controversial plays. Through the musical we discover a group of young people and how they make their way through the thrilling, complicated, confusing, and mysterious time of their sexual awakening.

For those who aren't familiar with this piece, the most beautiful and controversial aspect of it is that we jump from 1890's Germany to pop/rock songs straight out of the naughties. The songs are an insight into the inner thoughts of each character, and unconventionally don't always serve to progress the storyline.

An Award-winning Musical

The musical (which had up until that point been workshopped for over seven years) opened on Broadway at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre on December 10, 2006 and closed on January 18, 2009, after 888 performances and 29 previews. (This production starred Lea Michelle and Jonathan Groff, stars of current hit us television show, Glee). The show received a wealth of positive reviews.

The London production began January 23, 2009 at the Lyric Hammersmith, transferred to the Novello Theatre on March 21, 2009, and closed on May 30, 2009. The London production won four Laurence Olivier Awards,

including Best New Musical.

Critics loved it:

"Great news for theatregoers who have craved a new musical with attitude, youthful exuberance and a fresh, gutsy sound."
NY Daily News

"Here it is at last, the answer to one's prayers – a new musical, bursting with ambition and achievement...with the best original pop/rock score since Hair." The Telegraph

What's it about? (A brief synopsis)

It's Germany, 1891. A world where the grown-ups hold all the cards. The beautiful young Wendla explores the mysteries of her body, and wonders aloud where babies come from, till Mama tells her to shut it, and put on a proper dress. Elsewhere, the brilliant and fearless young Melchior interrupts a mind-numbing Latin drill to defend his buddy Moritz – a boy so traumatized by puberty he can't concentrate on anything. Not that the Headmaster cares. He strikes them both and tells them to turn in their lesson.

One afternoon – in a private place in the woods – Melchior and Wendla meet by accident, and soon find within themselves a desire unlike anything they've ever felt. As they fumble their way into one another's arms, Moritz flounders and soon fails out of school. When even

his one adult friend, Melchior's mother, ignores his plea for help, he is left so distraught he can't hear the promise of life offered by his outcast friend Ilse.

As the show continues, despite all the hurdles put in their way and tragedies that the characters must face, we find that there is still hope for those wishing to fight.

For a full extensive synopsis, visit: wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Awakening. But note – there will be spoilers!

Our Production

This Sedos production will be challenging, energetic and full of passion and intensity. Our vision is to create a show which is rich in contrast between dark, haunting scenes and explosive pop/rock songs. Scenes will be harrowing, and song performances should feel like intimate gigs. It's a show of light vs. dark as teenagers discover who they are in a world where they're told what to do and who to be.

We want the audiences to feel connected to the story; connected to the journey that each character goes through - remembering how it felt to feel unsure about who you were, or what you could achieve. It's about the intensity of being a teenager, learning about your feelings, learning to understand the society that you live in, and what opportunities and barriers that created for you. It's about what it was like to become an adult. As they sing with passion - The Bitch of Living!

the characters

The Teenagers:

(Please note that Teenagers are all played as 16-19 years old, but this is played age, and doesn't have to be actual age)

Melchior; courageous, headstrong, handsome, and charismatic. He knows much more than the others because of what he reads in books. He sees the corruption in society. He falls in love with Wendla. *Baritone.*

Moritz; Melchior's intense and nervous best friend, whose dreams of women haunt him to the point that he is too afraid to fall asleep. His strict and harsh parents (particularly his father) push him over the edge when he doesn't pass an exam. *Tenor.*

Hänschen; a very humorous, almost arrogant child. An effortless perfectionist who easily seduces Ernst. *Tenor.*

Ernst; a naive classmate of the boys who falls deeply for Hänschen's seduction. *Tenor.*

Otto; another classmate who dreamt of his mother. *Tenor.*

Georg; another classmate who lusts after his older, busty piano teacher. *Tenor.*

Wendla; a childhood friend of the boys. Inquisitive and curious. She falls in love with Melchior, and later discovers that she is pregnant with his child. *Soprano.*

Ilse; another childhood friend who

runs away from a sexually abusive home to become a Bohemian. Is Moritz's last offer of hope. *Mezzo.*

Martha; one of Wendla's friends who is abused sexually by her father. *Alto.*

Thea; one of Wendla's friends, a girl who tries to brush her feelings of sexual desire under the carpet to please adults. She's been sheltered by adults and can't comprehend how they could be wrong. *Mezzo.*

Anna; one of Wendla's friends, who cannot wrap her head around Martha's trials. She believes Teenagers should grow up to be free and begins to see the error of the adults' ways. *Alto.*

The ensemble; two girls and two boys who represent teenagers from all times and all places. *Vocal parts TBD.*

The Adults:

There are a variety of roles for one male and one female:

Fanny Gabor; Melchior's mother. Very open to the idea of her son understanding his body and desires and tries to provide counsel to her son's friend Moritz.

Herr Gabor; Melchior's father. He allows Fanny to dictate the way their son lives his life, but ultimately is the one to send him away.

Herr Stiefel; Moritz's father. He has high standards for his son and is

furious when Moritz fails. Many of the Teenagers believe when he weeps at his son's funeral, it is not for the loss of his child but his own selfish ego of how he will face others in town after Moritz's death.

The Teachers; who favour Melchior in the beginning and who dislike Moritz. They see him as a bad egg who will contaminate the others. They do not let him continue at school despite succeeding on his exams.

Fräulein Grossenbustenhälter; Georg's piano teacher who he dreams of. She humorously becomes the object of his fantasy during the song "My Junk."

Frau Bergmann; Wendla's mother. She doesn't want her daughter to grow up and tries to keep her young and innocent by refusing to give her lessons about her changing body, yet after discovering her daughter is pregnant, refuses to accept any responsibility for her part in her daughter's situation.

Herr Rilow; Hanschen's father, who appears briefly during "My Junk".



auditions

The Workshop (optional):

12 January, 7PM onwards.

We will sing through a group song and have a chance to experiment with some scenes. During the workshop, auditionees will have a chance to quiz the production team on their vision of the show, and ask any questions they may have about the audition process.

The Audition Process:

As with many shows, the success of Spring Awakening lies in performances of its cast. Audiences need to believe and connect with the struggles that these teenagers are going through, and the questions that they're asking. Everyone will have been through them at some point. Furthermore, the adults have a brilliant and challenging role in creating the variety of influential characters in the Teenagers' lives.

- 19–21 January: First audition
- 22 January: Group workshop audition
- 25/26 January: Recalls

The audition panel is: Chris, Ryan, Tim, Max and Chloë.

First Audition:

Teenagers: You will be asked to read one piece of text which we will send to you when you book your audition slot. You will also perform one song of your own choice in the genre of pop/rock, but please do not choose a song from Spring Awakening. You will not be required to do a dance/movement audition. The audition will last 5–7 minutes.

Females – please note that the vocal parts in Spring Awakening call for females with a strong belt. Please keep this in mind when choosing your song.

If you are not able to find the music for a song, or would like help in any other way, then please let us know and we will do what we can to help.

Adults: You will be asked to read two pieces of text for two different characters which will be sent to you in advance. You are not asked to sing a song nor do a movement audition.

Chris, Ryan, Tim, Max & Chloë will be present at this audition.

Group Audition (invited following the First Audition):

Spring Awakening is very much an ensemble piece, and in that spirit it is important for us to be able to see how individuals work together in various groupings.

The auditionees for Teenagers' roles will be required from 10–6. The auditionees for Adult roles will be required for less time.

The day will start with a movement audition. We are not looking for technically great dancers (quite happy if you are), but we do want everyone to be able to move and be able to express emotion through the movement of the body. We will then workshop text and songs throughout the day. Girls will workshop "Mama who Bore Me" and boys will workshop "The Bitch of Living". You are not required to learn these songs, but familiarity with them would be useful.

Some auditionees will then be asked to stay on to try out various roles.

Recalls:

We will ask individuals to come in for specific roles. You may be auditioning alongside others. We will ask you to sing a specific song from Spring Awakening.

What we're looking for

What we're not trying to do is to create a scary or tedious audition process. We're on your side and the emphasis will be on how willing you are to throw yourself into your audition as opposed to how prepared you are in terms of memorising scripts or songs.

Ultimately, it's about passion and commitment. Show us that you're prepared to take risks. We'd rather see you try something and fail than not try at all.

We're looking for the cast to bring something of themselves to their role and so anything you can do to show us how you would interpret different roles will be useful, interesting and appreciated. We really do not have a set-in-stone idea of what Wendla, Melchior, the Adults or any of the characters will be... so this really is your opportunity to show us your interpretation.

Have fun! In the first audition, pick a song you love that shows you off - and sing it like you would sing it in the shower!



need-to-know:

Rehearsals:

Dates:

Full rehearsals will start with a script read through and social on February 11.

Regular rehearsals will be Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays starting February 21.

Other rehearsals, including some Sundays, will be called at a later date when we know availability of the cast.

Other keys dates are:

May 6: Full day rehearsal.

May 7: Tech rehearsal

May 8: Dress rehearsal

May 9–19: Show.

Note: We are aware that May 7 is a bank holiday and we are asking the cast to rehearse on that day.

Times:

Weekdays: 7PM – 10PM.

Saturdays: 10PM – 5PM

Venue:

Workshops, auditions, recalls & rehearsals will take place at:

Ocean House
10 Little Trinity Lane
London
EC4V 2AR

Nearest tube: Mansion House

A map can be found at www.sedos.co.uk

Applying for an audition:

To apply for an audition, please email Leonardo Greco on leonardo.greco4@yahoo.com.

Please state:

Which roles you are interested in. You may say “all” if you wish.

Your preferred audition day AND availability for the other two ‘First Audition’ days.

Your age if younger than 18.

Auditioning if you are 16–17 years old:

We will see auditions from 16 and 17 year olds. Please state your age when you ask for an audition slot. We will do everything possible to accommodate.

Audition, participation and membership fees:

Sedos is one of London’s pre-eminent amateur theatre societies, with the aim of producing quality amateur shows to the best artistic quality possible. Please note that performers are not paid. To perform in Spring Awakening you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year) and pay a participation fee of £40. There is a £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members. If you are cast in the show, your audition fee will be deducted from your participation fee.

Questions:

All questions on the workshop and audition process should be addressed to Leonardo Greco at leonardo.greco4@yahoo.com.

See you at the audition! We can’t wait.

Chris, Ryan, Max, Tim, Chloë and Angharad.



*And all shall fade
The flowers of Spring
The world and all the sorrows
At the heart of everything.*

*But still it stays
The butterfly sings
And opens Purple Summer
With a flutter of its wings.*

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awakening