

WINNER 8 TONY® AWARDS INCLUDING BEST MUSICAL

SPRING AWAKENING

Frequently Asked Questions

What is *Spring Awakening* about?

Spring Awakening is a musical, based on a play of the same name written in 1891 by Frank Wedekind. It's a coming-of-age story that takes place in a provincial German town in the late nineteenth-century, and shows the consequences of living in a repressive society. Steven Sater, who wrote the book and lyrics, has said that his impulse in writing the show was "a desire to move hearts and try and change the world a little." Although *Spring Awakening* deals with very important themes, it also has a lot of humor and is a great deal of fun. Teenagers will easily identify – and identify with – the characters onstage.

What can you tell me about the score of the musical?

Spring Awakening features a great rock score, with music by indie composer Duncan Sheik and lyrics by Steven Sater. The songs reveal the private yearnings, hopes, and anguish of the show's teenage characters. As these feelings are timeless and universal, the writers chose to have the boys and girls assume the manner of contemporary teens when performing the songs.

I understand that there is a lot of crude language in the show.

The language is frank and reflects the way many contemporary teenagers speak. The words are sometimes raw, but they're never used for the sake of being vulgar. They are honest expressions of feelings.

Is it true that *Spring Awakening* includes sex and violence?

Spring Awakening deals with mature themes, and these include moments of brutality and sexual situations. One of the main goals of the creative team is that *Spring Awakening* opens the lines of communication between parents and children, and enables them to discuss difficult and significant topics.

Is there nudity in the show?

There is a sex scene that includes partial nudity.

I have heard that *Spring Awakening* is pro abortion and against religion.

Abortion and religion are crucial to the plot of *Spring Awakening*, but the authors do not take a stand either advocating or opposing anything. The only thing they are promoting is open dialogue between teenagers and their parents about these and other issues addressed in the show.

My child is thirteen. Is s/he too young to see *Spring Awakening*?

You are the best judge of whether your child is mature enough to handle the subject matter. As a rule, the show is recommended for those fifteen and older. But there are fifteen-year-olds who might not be emotionally prepared to deal with the themes and candid nature of *Spring Awakening*, just as there are thirteen-year-olds who *are* emotionally prepared to handle the subject matter. Only you can decide.