

Spring Awakening

Audition Information

The Capitol Arts Center's new Second Stage Program will be presenting Frank Wedekind's ground-breaking play *Spring Awakening* on Mar. 23 & 24. The production will be directed by Carol Jordan with choreography by Ashley Gentry. This piece, the basis for the hit musical, scandalized turn-of-the-century audiences with its unflinchingly honest portrayal of teenagers grappling with the difficult transition to adulthood. Alternately comic, tragic, horrifying and hopeful, the play takes place in 1890s Germany and follows three 14-year-olds and their friends as they deal with issues of sexuality, pregnancy and suicide.

Initial auditions will be Tues., Jan. 31 from 5:00-7:30 PM on the first floor of the Pushin Building at 400 E. Main St. (on the corner of College St. and Main St. just down the block from the Capitol Arts Center). Please use the side entrance under the red awning on College Street. You will be asked to read from the attached scenes from 5:00-6:00 and there will be a general dance/movement call at 6:00. While not all parts in the production will require dance skills, we do plan to do a good deal of ensemble movement work in the show, and want to have a general sense of everyone's skill level. Please wear or bring comfortable clothes that you can move in. We may also do additional readings after the dance call if needed. Callbacks (and initial auditions for anyone who can't be there on Tues. night) will be Wed., Feb. 1 from 5:30-7:30. Auditions for the show are open to anyone aged 18 and up.

Roles

Melchior Gabor: A brilliant but disaffected young man who rebels against traditional society. He is best friends with Moritz and ends up impregnating Wendla

Moritz Stiefel: Melchior's best friend and a struggling student whose poor grades and fear of his newly discovered sexual urges drive him to suicide

Wendla Bergmann: A bright, beautiful young woman who tries to get her mother to explain the facts to life to her without success and ends up in a destructive relationship with Melchior

Hansy Rilow: Another teenager who, while well informed about sex, struggles with his desires. Ends up in a relationship with Ernst.

Ernst Robel: Like Moritz, a poor student, but one who ultimately finds happiness with Hansy

Martha Bessel: A friend of Wendla, beaten by her father

Ilse: A friend of Wendla, Moritz, and Melchior who has fled to the city to live the wild, bohemian life of an artist's model

Thea: A good friend of Wendla and Martha

George, Robert, Otto & Lammermier: Classmates and friends of Melchior and Moritz

Diethelm, Reinhold, Rupert, Helmuth & Gaston: Boys at the reform school where Melchior is sent after Moritz's suicide

Mrs. Bergmann: Wendla's loving but sentimental and traditional mother

Mrs. Gabor: Melchior's relatively progressive, free-thinking mother, accused by Melchior's father of "destroying" their son

Mr. Gabor: Melchior's rigid, more traditional father, a lawyer

Mr. Stiefel: Moritz's father, feels that his son is a failure and a disgrace

Ina Muller: Wendla's married sister, mother of three children

Headmaster Hart-Payne: The tyrannical principal of Melchior and Moritz's school

Professors Brockenbohn, Starver, Schmalz, Blodgett, Fitztongue, and Killafly: Teachers at Melchior and Moritz's school

Fetch: A school custodian

Reverend Bleekhead: The local pastor

Ziegenmelker: A friend of Mr. Stiefel's

Uncle Probst: Moritz's uncle

Dr. Seltzer: A local quack doctor

Dr. Procrustes: Head of the reform school that Melchior is sent to

A Locksmith

The Masked Man: A mysterious figure who shows up at the end of the play to offer Melchior a vision of a more hopeful life-affirming future

Depending on who auditions, roles may be doubled, cut, combined and/or cross-gender cast. Also be aware that the names of the school teachers and some of the other characters vary depending on the translation.

Rehearsals will most likely be from 5:00-7:00 during the week and from 7:00-10:00 on Sunday evenings during February, and from 7:30-10:00 pm during the week and from 7:00-10:00 on Sunday evenings during March. However, specific dates and times may be adjusted depending on actor schedules. Tech/dress rehearsals will be from 7:00-11:00 Mon., Mar. 19-Thurs., Mar. 22, with performances at 8:00 pm on Fri., Mar. 23 & Sat., Mar. 24, and will be mandatory for all cast and crew members.

We will be using the Jonathan Franzen translation for the performance, but an earlier translation is available for free on-line at <http://www.archive.org/details/awakeningofsprin00wedeiala>. Be aware that while the play is less graphic than the musical, it does contain sexual encounters, masturbation, homosexuality, abortion, suicide and occasional profanity. You are strongly encouraged to read the play prior to auditions to make sure that you are comfortable with the content.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to audition but can't be there during the scheduled audition times, please contact Carol Jordan at carolherinjordan@gmail.com or carol.jordan@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 320-0362.

Male Audition Piece

(In this scene, Moritz questions Melchior about the facts of life as they take an evening walk.)

Mortiz: One question, by the way –

Melchior: Yes?

Mortiz: You sure you'll answer?

Melchior: Of course!

Mortiz: Promise?!

Melchior: Cross my heart. -- Yes, Moritz?

Mortiz: Have you done the essay yet?

Melchior: Come on, spit it out! Nobody's listening, nobody can see us.

Mortiz: Have you already been feeling them?

Melchior: What?

Mortiz: How did you put it?

Melchior: Masculine stirrings?

Mortiz: M – hm.

Melchior: -- I sure have!

Mortiz: Me too. - - - - -

Melchior: It's been going on for quite a while, in fact! – Almost a year now.

Mortiz: It hit me like a bolt of lightning. If you knew what I've suffered since that night!

Melchior: Pangs of guilt?

Mortiz: Pangs of guilt? - - - *Fear of death!*

Female Audition Piece

(In this scene, Mrs. Bergmann tells Wendla that the stork has just brought her sister Ina a new baby. Wendla asks her mother to tell her the truth about where the baby came from.)

Mrs. Bergmann: You'll just never grow up, will you! I'd be surprised if you ever start showing good sense. – I've stopped hoping.

Wendla: So have I, Mommy, so I have I. – It's a sad thing about my good sense. – I have a sister who's been married for two and half years, and I'm an aunt now for the third time myself and I have absolutely no idea how it happens . . . Please, Mommy, tell me! You don't seriously expect me to keep believing in the stork when I'm fourteen years old.

Mrs. Bergmann: Goodness gracious, what a strange little girl you are today! -- These ideas that you get! -- I certainly can't do anything like that!

Wendla: Why not, Mother! -- Why not! -- It can't be anything too horrid if it makes everyone so happy!

Mrs. Bergmann: Oh – oh, God help me! – I'd deserve to be . . . Go get dressed, young lady; go get dressed!

Wendla: I'm going . . . And if your baby goes out and asks the chimney sweep?

Mrs. Bergmann: It's enough to drive you mad! – Come here, baby, come here, I'll tell you all about it! I'll tell you everything . . . Merciful heavens! -- But not today, Wendla! Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, next week . . .