USC School of Dramatic Arts
Celebrating Over 75 Years

PRESENTS

Spring Awakening

Music by Duncan Sheik  Book and Lyrics by Steven Sater
Based on the play by Frank Wedekind
Directed by Saundra McClain

MUSIC DIRECTION  Jennifer Lin
CHOREOGRAPHY   Lisa Ruffin
SCENIC DESIGN  Zoya Naqvi
COSTUME DESIGN  Maddy Engelsman
LIGHTING DESIGN  Nicole Jaja
SOUND DESIGN  Naveen Bhatia
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER  Arturo Fernandez, Jr
ORCHESTRATIONS  Duncan Sheik
VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS  AnnMarie Milazzo
STRING ORCHESTRATIONS  Simon Hale

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in alphabetical order)

Armand Akbari  Melchior
Audra Coleman  Marianna/Ensemble
Brandon Borkowsky  Hänschen/Rupert
Tori Coleman  Marianna/Ensemble
Munachimso Mbaezue  Adult Men
Matthew McCoy  Moritz
Jordan Rice  Ernst/Reinhold

Allison Belinkoff  Ilse
Ryan Benson  Georg/Dieter
Taylor Knowles  Adult Women

Jenna Ross  Ilse
Nia Otchere-Sarfo  Martha
Dylan Smith  Otto/Ulbrecht
Mikaela Villalpando  Wendla

Talha Barberousse  Anna
Thur 7:30 p.m./Sat & Sun 2 p.m.
Ensemble  Thur 7:30 p.m./Sat & Sun 2 p.m.

Morgan Hill-Edgar  Bobby/Ensemble
Brianna Pember  Anna
Fri 7:30 p.m./Sat & Sun 2 p.m.
Thu 7:30 p.m./Sat & Sun 2 p.m.

Shaheen Kapambwe  Thea
Dylan Smith  Otto/Ulbrecht
Mikaela Villalpando  Wendla

TIME  19th Century  PLACE  Germany

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

WARNING  Please be advised that this production contains smoking. Theatre is dangerous. Theatre can be triggering. Theatre is healing.

Spring Awakening is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com.


The World premiere of Spring Awakening was produced by the Atlantic Theater Company by special arrangement with Tom Hulce & Ira Pittelman.

October 28-31, 2021 | McClintock Theatre
PRODUCTION STAFF

**Assistant Stage Manager** Megan Reed | **Assistant Costume Design** Elle Patrick | **Associate Sound Design** Amelia Anello

**Production Engineer** Alex Attalla | **Dance Captain** Tori Coleman | **Fight Captain** Dylan Smith | **Fight Choreography** Edgar Landa

**Intimacy Choreography** Lisa Ruffin | **Costume Design Mentor** Ann Closs-Farley | **Stage Management Mentor** Scott Faris

**Sound Design Mentor** Phil Allen | **Scenic Design Mentor** Sibyl Wickersheimer | **Crew** Hayley Bill, Christina Buda, Haley Carolan, Maya Channer, Roy Gantz, Tyler Giffin, Yannick Haynes, Nathan Hicks, Ari Hyman, Jordan Jaross, Rebecca Ko, Bailey Yoon

**Musicians** Jennifer Lin, Harrison Newton, Pathik Desai, Lisa Gass, and Joseph Muskat

**Orchestra Contractor** Tanikawa Artists Management, LLC

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**BIOS**

**Saundra McClain (Director)** A two-time Ovation Award nominee and LA Drama Critics Award Best Actor, Saundra has performed in numerous films, on television, including in such theatres as Kennedy Center, Shakespeare Theatre-D.C., Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Alliance Theatre, Alley Theatre, Philadelphia Drama Guild, Two River Theatre, Musical Theatre West, Syracuse Stage, McCarter Theatre, A.R.T., Spoleto Festival, New York Shakespeare Theatre, 2nd Stage, N.E.C., New Federal Theatre, Classic Theatre Company, Hudson Guild, Billie Holiday Theatre, Coconut Grove, Antaeus Theatre Company, and A Noise Within. She has directed at ICT, Ensemble Theatre Company, Pomona College, Cal Lutheran University, CSU-Fullerton, Main St. Theatre, Sierra Madre Playhouse, Virginia Stage and the Colony Theatre. She is in pre-production for Cabaret at CSU Fullerton.

**Jennifer Lin (Music Director)** works as a music director, accompanist, and teacher throughout Southern California. She is the resident music director for Color and Light Theatre Ensemble. Recent productions include Matilda (at both 5-Star Theatricals and La Mirada Theatre with McCoy RigBY Entertainment), The Last Five Years (After Hours Theatre; Ovation Nominee for Musical Direction), XY (NAMT Festival of New Musicals), LIZZIE (at both Cal State Fullerton and Color and Light Theatre Ensemble), Princessa: Queen of the Desert (Celebration Theatre; Ovation Nominee for Musical Direction, Ovation Winner for Best Intimate Theatre), and Hit the Wall (LA LGBT Center).

**Lisa Ruffin (Choreographer)** is an award-winning choreographer and attended The Juilliard School. Ruffin has worked extensively in the entertainment industry from Stevie Wonder to Beyoncé. Her choreography credits include Kool and the Gang’s “Joanna,” which received an American Music Award. Lisa is the youngest African-American woman to choreograph a Broadway production, Up Close and Personal, at the Lunt Fontaine Theatre. She shared her creative talents in over 20 Countries. Lisa is excited to work with director Saundra McClain and is honored to work on USC’s Spring Awakening as the Choreographer and Intimacy Coordinator.

**Steven Sater (Book and Lyrics)** was awarded the 2007 Tony Awards for Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score for Spring Awakening along with the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Lyrics. With alt-rocker Duncan Sheik, he received the 2007 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album for Spring Awakening. In addition, the two received The Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award, the Outer Critics Circle, the Drama Desk, the Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics Circle, and Drama League Awards for Best Musical. Steven is the author of numerous plays, including the long-running Carbondale Dreams, Perfect for You, Doll (the Rosenthal Prize, Cincinnati Playhouse); Umbrage (Steppenwolf New Play Prize); A Footnote to the Iliad (New York Stage and Film, The Miniature Theatre of Chester); Asylum (Naked Angels); Murder at the Gates (commissioned by Eye of the Storm); In Search of Lost Wings (Sanford Meisner Theater) and a re-conceived version of Shakespeare’s Tempest, with music by Laurie Anderson, which played London’s Lyric Hammersmith and toured throughout Great Britain. In addition to Spring Awakening, Sater has collaborated with Sheik on the NY premiere of Umbrage (HERE), Nero (The Magic Theatre, workshoped at the New York Shakespeare Festival and New York Stage & Film), and The Nightingale (workshopped at the O’Neill Musical Theatre Conference, La Jolla Playhouse, A.C.T., and New York Theater Workshop). He is also hard at work with System of a Down’s Serj Tankian on a musical version of Prometheus Bound, to be directed by Diane Paulus at the American Repertory Theater. Sater is the lyricist for Sheik’s critically acclaimed album Phantom Moon (Nonesuch), and together the two wrote the songs for Michael Mayer’s feature film A Home at the End of the World (Warner Classics) as well as the independent features Brother’s Shadow and Mary Stuart Masterson’s The Cake Eaters. Sater is also co-creator and executive producer, with Paul Reiser, of recent pilots for both NBC and Sony/FX, and has developed two projects for HBO, and another for Showtime (with Reiser). He is also at work, with Jessie Nelson, on a feature film and is creating an original movie musical for producer Larry Mark. In addition, Steven works as a lyricist with various composers in the pop/rock world — recently writing songs with Burt Bacharach, Johnny Mandel, Andreas Carlsson, and William Joseph.


**Simon Hale (String Orchestrations)** After graduating from the University of London with an honors degree in composition, Simon Hale's acclaimed solo album, East Fifteen, led to recordings with many artists, including George Benson, Simply Red, Jamiroquai and Björk. In 1996 he orchestrated Duncan Sheik's first album, and their musical collaboration has continued ever since. Simon's involvement with Spring Awakening marked his Broadway debut and the Tony Award for Best Orchestrations in 2007. He continues to work with Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik on other projects. For more information please visit www.simonhale.co.uk.