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Rediscover the Excitement and Innocence of Youth with *Spring Awakening* at the University of Florida October 28 through November 6

Gainesville, Fla., October 18, 2016 – The University of Florida (UF) School of Theatre + Dance presents *Spring Awakening*, Friday, Oct. 28, 2016 through Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016 at the Constans Theatre located in the Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion on UF's campus. Tony Mata, UF School of Theatre + Dance Professor, is in charge of direction and musical staging with the help of School of Music Associate Professor Anthony Offerle as musical director. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 1-5 and at 2:00 p.m. Oct. 30 and Nov. 6.

Set in Germany near the turn of the century, this captivating musical tells the story of a group of teenagers dealing with sexual awakening, youth revolt and self-discovery. Determined Melchior and naïve Wendla manage to take comfort with one another with passionate curiosity, while an uneasy Moritz fights to fit in with the rigid expectations set by both family and society. With only each other to rely on, these three along with their classmates struggle in this emotional coming-of-age story to discover their bodies, minds, and themselves battling the suppressive society of unjust teachers and adults.



Spring Awakening actors Emily Lewis (left) and Chaz May.

“*Spring Awakening*’s story is all about the miscommunication between the kids and the adults,” Mata said. “There is a separation between the adults in this production by having them suspended and overlooking the kids to enhance that idea of separation. The design is very Brechtian in some ways like the set and contemporary in others like some of the costumes.”

The show is based on the controversial play of the same title by Frank Wedekind and was made into a musical with the help of Steven Sater writing the book and lyrics and Duncan Sheik providing the music. Since its Broadway premiere at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre on Dec. 10, 2006, directed by Michael Mayer, the show has become an unforgettable piece of musical theatre.

School of THEATRE + DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

The original Broadway production starred Lea Michele as Wendla, Jonathan Groff as Melchior, and John Gallagher Jr. as Moritz and won eleven Tony Awards in 2007 including Best Musical. The show had a recent remount in 2015 by Deaf West Theatre directed by Michael Arden and included a wonderful cast of deaf and audible actors.

Sater and Sheik have continued to work together after their success with *Spring Awakening* in 2007 on a new work called *The Nightingale*, which is based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale about a young emperor in China, whose lavish lifestyle trapped inside the walls of the Forbidden City is overturned by the song of an extraordinary bird that lives beyond the wall. *The Nightingale* was directed by Tony Award Nominee Moisés Kaufman in 2012.

Tickets for the UF production are \$18 for the general public, \$15 for UF faculty/staff and seniors, and \$13 for students. Season and group prices are also available. Tickets are available through the University Box Office located at Gate 3 of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Gale Lemerand Drive (next to the Heisman statues), by calling 352-392-1653 or at ticketmaster.com. The University Box Office is open Tuesdays through Fridays 12-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the Constans Theatre Box Office starting 45 minutes prior to the performance.

The Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion is located at 687 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611. On-campus parking is available at the Reitz Union garage and the Museum Road parking lot. Guests are strongly encouraged to pick up tickets early, as shows run the risk of being sold out.

About the School of Theatre + Dance

The School of Theatre + Dance is one of the University of Florida College of the Arts' institutionally-accredited schools. Undergraduate students can pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting, dance, musical theatre, theatre production—including costume design, lighting design and scenic design—or a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance studies or general theatre. Minors are also offered in dance and theatre as well as certificates in arts in medicine and dance in healthcare. Student organizations, showcase programs and other intensives provide students with invaluable professional experiences. UF is home to three School of Theatre + Dance performance venues, including the Constans Theatre, Black Box Theatre and G-6 Studio. To learn more about the School of Theatre + Dance, including upcoming performance dates and ticket information, visit www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance.

About the College of the Arts

The College of the Arts is one of the 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. The College of the Arts offers baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. degree programs in its three institutionally-accredited schools — the School of Art + Art History, School of Music and School of Theatre + Dance. The college is home to the Center for Arts in Medicine, Center for Arts and Public Policy, Center for World Arts, Digital Worlds Institute, University Galleries and the New World School of the Arts in Miami. More than 100 faculty members and approximately than 1,200 students work together daily to engage, inspire and create. The college hosts more than 300 performances, exhibitions and events each year. Faculty and students also exhibit and perform at other local, national and international venues. To learn more, visit www.arts.ufl.edu.

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