

## **SPRING AWAKENING**

### **Character Breakdown**

**SHOW SYNOPSIS:** Based on Frank Wedekind's groundbreaking and controversial play, Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik's brilliant rock score and searingly emotional book take the story of sexual awakening, youth revolt, and self-discovery into a new century. It's 1891, and grown-ups hold all the cards. Headstrong Melchior and naive Wendla stumble into each others' arms, passionate and curious, while anxious Moritz struggles to live up to the stringent expectations of society. With only each other for guidance, this group of young men and women travel the fraught and rocky path of adolescence, discovering their bodies, their minds, and themselves along the way. An electric, vibrant celebration of youth and rebellion, Spring Awakening fuses issues of morality, sexuality, and rock and roll into a story that packs a powerful emotional punch.

Due to the content of Spring Awakening, performers cast should be prepared to engage in conversations involving varying levels of intimacy, but specifics may be adapted according to the collaborative vision, honoring boundaries and applying a consent-forward artistic approach when identifying these specific moments. For a full list of content warnings by character:

[☰ SPRING AWAKENING - CONTENT WARNINGS](#)

### **YOUNG ADULTS**

All must be able to move well.

**Anna:** Female, female identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. Martha's best friend. Optimistic and a bit naïve, she has a difficult time understanding Martha's trials. Mezzo-Soprano.

**Ernst:** Male, male identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. A sweet, and shy schoolmate of Melchior's. Naive and easily manipulated, which allows him to fall in love with Hanschen. Onstage intimacy is part of this role. Bari-Tenor.

**Georg:** Male, male identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. A funny and energetic young man who lusts over his piano teacher and is open about his sexual desires. Tenor.

**Hanschen:** Male, male identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. A confident and rather narcissistic schoolmate of Melchior's. He is comfortable with his own sexuality and uses his looks and intelligence to captivate Ernst. Simulated masturbation is a part of this role. Onstage intimacy is part of this role. Tenor.

**Ilse:** Female, female identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. Martha's sister. She was abused by her father and cast out on the streets. She is bold, resilient, and upbeat despite her circumstances. She is living in an artist colony and stuck in a new cycle of abuse. She and Moritz could have had a relationship in another life. Mezzo-Soprano.

**Martha:** Female, female identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. An intelligent, kind, and strong young woman that is made fun of for liking the less popular boys. Beaten and sexually abused by her father, but scared to be an outcast or kicked out of her home if she tells anyone. Mezzo-Soprano.

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**Melchior:** Male, or male identifying actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. An intelligent, rebellious, and caring young man that passionately disagrees with the systems of power in command. An atheist and radical student. Struggles with his intense feelings for Wendla and his awakening sexual urges. Violent situations and simulated sex are a part of this role. Possible partial nudity. Bari-Tenor.

**Moritz:** Male, male identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. Melchior's best friend. An anxious, sweet, and sensitive young man who is struggling through this time of new awakenings. Bad at school, deeply affected by new desires, and trying to live up to high expectations from his parents eventually drive him to end his life. Simulated suicide is a part of this role. Tenor.

**Otto:** Male, male identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. A classmate of Melchior's. He struggles with feelings he considers inappropriate. Bari-Tenor.

**Wendla:** Female or female identifying actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. An innocent and impassioned young girl that is awakening to her sexuality and the harsh realities of the world. With every passing day, she grows more curious about the world around her and her changing body. Both vulnerable and a willing participant in her evolution. Explores her newly-found sexuality with Melchior. Violent situations and simulated sex are a part of this role. Possible partial nudity. Soprano.

**Thea:** Female, female identifying, or non-binary actor of any ethnicity. Able to play teens-early 20s. Wendla's best friend. She is sweet, energetic, and beginning to gain small crushes on boys like Melchior, but still trusting of her parents and the systems around her. Mezzo-Soprano.

**Ensemble Girls:** Able to play teens-early 20s. Up to 5 ensemble girls (will also understudy). Various voice parts.

**Ensemble Boys:** Able to play teens-early 20s. Up to 4 ensemble boys (will also understudy and play the roles of Reinhold, Dieter, Rupert, and Ulbrecht). Various voice parts.

### **ADULTS**

**Adult Woman:** Female or female identifying actor of any ethnicity. To play 40s-50s. Plays all the adult females roles that range from a hateful principle, multiple mothers, a sexual piano teacher, and stern teacher. Must be comfortable playing many characters. Fewer singing skills are needed for this role.

**Adult Man:** Male or Male identifying actor of any ethnicity. To play 40s-50s. Plays all the adult male roles that range from a hateful headmaster, multiple fathers, a preacher, stern teacher, and doctor. Must be comfortable playing many characters. Fewer singing skills are needed for this role.