



Youth Musical Theater Company

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Inquiries: Simone

Kertesz/YMTC

Phone: 510-595-5514

Email: simone@ymtcbayarea.org

Website: www.ymtcbayarea.org



YMTC TO PRESENT MUSICAL *SPRING AWAKENING*

Berkeley, California. January 13, 2017—When adolescent love, sex, and rock and roll collide with the repressive, punishing culture of 19th century Germany, what can happen? The gritty, ground-breaking musical *Spring Awakening* tells the tale. YMTC presents this celebrated rock musical on February 24–March 5, 2017 at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts in Oakland.

In schools, churches, and homes of 1891 Germany, adults enforced a rigid moral code on children based on secrets and shame. In the midst of this oppressive culture, three teens, Wendla, Melchior, and Moritz, try to navigate their coming-of-age anxieties and experience their first tastes of love, despair, and rebellion. Winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, *Spring Awakening* explores their journey from adolescence to adulthood.

With music by Duncan Shiek and book and lyrics by Steven Sater, *Spring Awakening* opened on Broadway to critical acclaim in 2006. It is based on *Spring Awakening: A Children's Tragedy*, a German expressionist play written by Frank Wedekind in 1891 and first performed in 1906. The play was often banned because of its controversial subject matter.

The YMTC production features a cast of 19 talented and dedicated performing arts students (grades 9–12) from cities including Berkeley, Albany, Oakland, Piedmont, Castro Valley and Lafayette, mentored by professional directors, designers, and musicians. The production is co-directed by Jennifer Boesing and Simone Kertesz, with musical direction by Diana Lee and choreography by Janet Collard.

Performances run for two weekends at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts (1428 Alice Street, Oakland). Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. The Sunday 2/26 matinee will feature a post-show audience talk-back with directors, cast, and guest speakers from the Family Violence Law Center and The Trevor Project. Tickets are available online at www.ymtcbayarea.org or at the door one hour before curtain. Ticket prices are \$15–28, with discounts for students, seniors, military, teachers and groups. *Spring Awakening* contains strong language and intense content not appropriate for younger children.

ABOUT YMTC

YMTC is dedicated to providing exceptional training to young theater artists through the production of exceptional musical theater. The organization brings together the Bay Area's most talented and dedicated young singer/actors—as well as students of technical theater—with professional directors, designers, and musicians. They take on challenging and sophisticated musical and dramatic themes, and productions are always accompanied by a full, live orchestra.

CALENDAR LISTING

YMTC Presents Sheik & Sater's Musical "Spring Awakening"

Adolescent love, sex, and rock and roll collide with the repressive, punishing culture of 19th century Germany in the gritty, ground-breaking musical *Spring Awakening*.

Show Run: February 24–March 5, 2017

Opens: Friday, February 24, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Performances:

Fridays 2/24 and 3/3, 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays 2/25 and 3/4, 7:30 p.m.

Sundays 2/26* and 3/5, 2:00 p.m.

(*Sunday 2/26 includes a post-show audience talk-back.)

Where: Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Ticket Prices: General Admission, \$15-28. Student, senior, teacher, military, and group discounts are available. Purchase tickets at www.ymtcbayarea.org or at the door 1 hour prior to performance.

Information: 510-595-5514

