

Frank Wedekind By

In a new version by Claudia Osborne

**Directed by** Claudia Osborne

Venue Reg Grundy

When 06 Nov - 13 Nov

**Run Times** 1hour 50 minutes (no interval)

Content advice Includes theatrical haze, adult themes, depictions of masturbation, suicide and sexual violence, and references to abortion. Advice may change.

Spring Awakening is perhaps the greatest play written about teenagers, before teenagers were even invented. Banned and censored for many years, this radical and brutally honest take on adolescent sexuality is a full-frontal collision against its 19th century setting - a world defined by moral strictures, rigidity, and rules.

This new adaptation from director Claudia Osborne centres around eight woefully uninformed young people trying to make sense of life, sex, and all of the bits in between.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

Written in 1891, Frank Wedekind's Spring Awakening, subtitled 'a children's tragedy' tells the story of a group of young people caught between their desires and the guidance of adults who insist on keeping them in ignorance, refusing to answer their very reasonable questions about sex, death, god, and life. The result is that these young people are forced to find their own answers, sometimes with disastrous results.

In this adaptation, we watch as eight young people inhabit an unfinished, rehearsal-like space, making sense of their lot in life through role play, games, and exploration.

Famously, the play culminates with the intrusion of a 'Masked Man' first performed by Wedekind himself (apparently, he forgot all his lines) who appears to Melchior. In this adaptation, we've introduced this figure earlier in dreamlike visions, representing the fears and desires of each of the young people, and shepherding them (often without consent) into adulthood.

At first glance, Wedekind's thesis seems simple; a tragic, cautionary tale against the sexual hypocrisies at the turn of the century. But the tragedy here extends beyond the demise of Wendla, Melchior and Moritz. With the power of hindsight, Wedekind's authoritarian fin-de-siecle play feels prophetic. Unlike some of the queries and questions around sex and life, the violence in this play cannot and should not be justified as 'natural instinct'. This violence is a rupture of repression, and the result of a society that regulates its citizens through shame.

**CAST** (in order of appearance)

Wendla Georgia-Paige Theodos

Martha/Mrs Bergman Alex Travers

> Melchior Rhys Johnson

Hans/Professor Heapsdumb Harrison Mills

> Moritz Braeden Caddy

Ernst/Sonnenstich/ Faisal Hamza

Mr Gabor/The Stork

Thea/Mrs Gabor/ Janita Barber

Zungenschlag

Ilse/Reverend/Doctor Lilian Alejandra Valverde

The Stork / Understudy Oli Edis

Understudies Ruby Ballantyne

Anika Banerjee Apsara Lindeman

Lucas Stace

## THE COMPANY

Director Claudia Osborne\*

**Costume Designer Edison Heartly** 

**Lighting Designer** Julianna Stankiewicz

Set/Props Designer

Angelina Daniel

**Sound Designer** 

Sherydan Simson

Movement/Fight Consultant

Troy Honeysett\*

**Intimacy Co-ordinator** 

Shondelle Pratt\*

Voice Coach

Patrick Klavins\*

**Assistant Director** 

Lucy Rossen

Lou Quill

**Production Stage Manager** 

Naomi O'Connor

**Deputy Stage Manager** 

**Archer Dametto** 

**Assistant Stage Manager** 

Hayley Cantrill

**Construction Manager** 

Darcy Duncan Hannah Garmen\*

**Costume Supervisor** 

Jaspa Frankish

**Props Supervisor** 

Georgia Raczkowski Amelie McCarthy

**Head Electrician** 

Zoe Howard

Leading Hand Set Costume Maker

Emilia Lilischkis

Costume Design Assistant

Shay Dowley

Set/Props Design Assistant

Costume Assistant/Dresser

Adithi Lyer

**Properties Assistant** 

Jackson Lorrigan

Nat Lawson

**Set Assistants** 

Operator

Ingo Cottier, Jonathan

Hartley, Luka Mark,

Jamie Sellar, Emile Stuart

Floor Electrician/Board

Lola Hunt

Microphone Technician

Otto Zagala

\* Guest