

June 4, 2025

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For information regarding the 2025 season: www.ChanceTheater.com/2025-season

**Chance Theater boldly unleashes the groundbreaking, electrifying rock
musical that redefined a generation...**

Spring Awakening

The Eight-Time Tony Award-Winning Sensation

Blazes onto the Stage for its Long-Awaited Orange County Premiere

ANAHEIM, CA – Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, is thrilled to announce its production of *Spring Awakening*, with book and lyrics by **Steven Sater**, music by **Duncan Sheik**, and original text by **Frank Wedekind**. Directed by **Jocelyn A. Brown**, Chance Associate Artistic Director, and featuring music direction by **Robyn Manion**, Chance Resident Music Director, and choreographed by **Mo Goodfellow**, this Tony Award-winning musical runs July 11 to August 10, 2025, at the Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center’s Cripe Stage, with previews beginning July 11.

It’s 1891, and the grown-ups hold all the cards. Headstrong Melchior and naive Wendla stumble into each other’s 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 people navigates the rocky path of adolescence, discovering their bodies, their minds, and themselves along the way. With its fusion of morality, sexuality, and rock and roll, *Spring Awakening* delivers a story that packs a powerful emotional punch.

This production marks a full-circle moment for director **Jocelyn A. Brown**, who helmed Chance Theater’s 2003 staging of *Spring’s Awakening*, the haunting **Frank Wedekind** play that inspired the musical. Over two decades later, Brown returns to the same story—now reimagined through **Duncan Sheik**’s indie rock score and **Steven Sater**’s poetic lyrics—to once again explore the raw, radiant pain and possibility of adolescence. With an eye for emotional truth and

theatrical daring, Brown leads a powerhouse creative team and a bold new cast in delivering a version of *Spring Awakening* that feels as urgent, beautiful, and necessary as ever.

This **Orange County Regional Premiere** is more than a long-awaited debut—it's a lightning strike of outsider energy, poetic rebellion, and raw emotion. *Spring Awakening* wasn't born on Broadway—it crashed into it. When **Duncan Sheik**, the alt-rock heartthrob behind the 1996 hit "Barely Breathing," teamed up with **Steven Sater**, a classically trained poet with a punk-rock soul, they didn't just write a musical—they sparked a movement. Sheik's lush, folk-rock sound and Sater's emotionally raw lyrics shattered Broadway expectations and helped pave the way for contemporary musicals like *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Hadestown*. Together, they earned eight Tony Awards, a Grammy, and a devoted following who found themselves in the show's aching vulnerability and explosive rebellion.

Director **Jocelyn A. Brown** shares her excitement about the production, stating:

"I'm thrilled Orange County finally gets to experience Spring Awakening's raw and poetic musical storytelling! This cautionary tale is as relevant as ever for today's teenagers as they navigate the complexities of their emerging sexuality, academic pressures, and societal expectations. Through its electric and impassioned score—reminiscent of the best folk-infused alternative rock music of the '90s—adults and current teens alike will relish the immersion into the dynamic internal world of adolescent fervor, confusion, angst, and hopes."

The cast of *Spring Awakening* features **Cordyon Melgoza** (Chance Debut) as Melchior, **Kayley Stallings** (Chance Debut) as Wendla, **Brody Tarrant Sitton** (Chance Debut) as Moritz, **Isabella Kaplan** (Chance Debut) as Ilse, **Emma Magbanua** (Chance Debut) as Martha, **Diego Huerta-Gutierrez** (Chance Debut) as Ernst, **Caiden Falstrup-Finney** (Chance Debut) as Hanschen, **Jack Thomas Aitken** (*Rent*) as Georg, **Linda Bard** (Chance Debut) as Thea, **Jaylen Baham** (*Ride The Cyclone*) as Otto, **Naya Ramsey-Clarke** (*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*) as Anna, **Erica Farnsworth** (*Tigers Be Still*) as Adult Woman, and **James Michael McHale** (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) as Adult Man.

The talented creative team includes **Mo Goodfellow** (*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*) as Choreographer, **Bradley Kaye** (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) as Scenic Designer, **Bradley Allen Lock** (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) as Costume Designer, **Jacqueline Malenke** (*Tick, Tick...Boom!*) as Lighting Designer, **Lia Weed** (*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*) as Sound Designer, **Nicole Schlitt** (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) as Stage Manager, **Sophie Hall Cripe** (*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*) as Dramaturg, **Martin Noyes** (*Gloria*) as Fight Director, **Jordyn Bieblas-Galvan** (*Such Small Hands*) as Sound Engineer, **Alyssa Kammerer** (Chance Debut) and **Ryan Morgan** (Chance Debut) as Assistant Stage Managers, **Lindsay Brooks**

(Gloria) as Casting Director, [Shinshin Yuder Tsai](#) (*Tick, Tick...BOOM!*, Resident Artist) Associate Casting Director and Intimacy Coordinator, and [Fae Crane](#) (*The Chinese Lady*) as Casting Associate.

Critics have praised *Spring Awakening*:

"The most gorgeous Broadway score this decade." – *Entertainment Weekly*

"It's elevated to pure poetry, a howl of adolescent rage that sings like an angel, a teenage riot that floors you with its beauty." – [TimeOut.com](#)

"Bold, funny, and inviting... it's also exhilarating." – *The New York Times*

Special Events: As a hub for connection, creativity, and compassion, Chance Theater is proud to make a difference in the local community by offering a space for connection, dialogue, and celebration with initiatives like Pride Night, Wine Night, and Community Spotlight. These events enrich the theatergoing experience and help create lasting bonds within our diverse audience.

Post-Show Discussion: Join us for post-show discussions after every performance! We invite the audience to engage with the artists and one another, fostering a more connected, compassionate, and creative community. Share your thoughts, ask questions, and deepen your experience of the production in an open and welcoming environment.

Design Preview Party is on June 9, 2025, where members of Chance Theater gain insights from the Director, Designers, and Cast about the artistic vision behind the Show.

Community Spotlight is on Thursday, July 24, 2025 starting at 6:30 PM. This special afternoon is dedicated to celebrating the vibrant community surrounding Chance Theater. Join us for a pre- and post-performance happy hour designed to foster meaningful conversation and connection.

Pride Night is on Saturday, July 26th, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM. Theater lovers who share an identity can come together over refreshments and conversation. Before enjoying the performance, this special event provides a welcoming space to connect with others in the community, celebrate shared experiences, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Wine Night is back by popular demand on Friday, July 25th 2025 starting at 7:00 PM. where you can enjoy exclusive wines generously donated by long-time supporters **Judy & David Joss**. The first 50 patrons through the door will receive complimentary access to these special wines, with priority access given to members and their guests. It's the perfect way to kick off the evening before the show begins!

Pay-What-You-Can Previews tickets are available for every show we produce for as low as \$10 per ticket, and **SaverTIX** are available for every performance after opening. Our goal with these initiatives is to make live theater accessible to everyone in our community, regardless of financial barriers.

These individuals are proud to support *Spring Awakening* at Chance Theater:

Executive Producers **Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield; Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller; Laurie Smits Staude**

2025 Executive Season producer, **Bette & Wylie Aitken**, and Associate Season producer, **The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar**.

We are deeply grateful for their extraordinary generosity and commitment.

Tickets and Additional Information

Join us for *Spring Awakening* from **July 11 - August 10, 2025** on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center, located in Anaheim, CA.

Tickets are available now at [ChanceTheater.com/springawakening](https://chancetheater.com/springawakening) or by calling the box office at **(888) 455-4212**, Monday through Friday, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Reviewers and other press are welcome to request any performance. We encourage them to attend Opening Night on **July 19, 2025, at 8:00 PM**. For press inquiries, interviews, press comps, or photos, please contact Producing Associate Shinshin Tsai at (949) 346-2374 or via email at Shinshin@chancetheater.com.

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

As one of Southern California's leading ensemble-driven theater companies, Chance Theater is proud to have received the National Theatre Company grant from American Theatre Wing for "nurturing a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre." The Chance has earned 42 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical for ***Jane Austen's Emma, The Musical*** and ***Fun Home***, Outstanding Production of a Play and Outstanding New Play for ***Matinicus: The Story Of Abigail Burgess*** (A Chance Theater Commission) and ***Cry It Out***, as well as 6 Orange Curtain Review Awards, with Best Musical for ***Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street***. The theater's achievements also include eight Ovation Awards (four for Best Production of a

Musical - Intimate Theatre) and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. In 2014, the Anaheim City Council designated Chance Theater as “the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim,” and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as an “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold, personal storytelling to foster dialogue and connection in Southern California, the Chance remains committed to building a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a member of Theatre Communications Group, Theatre Producers of Southern California, OC Theatre Guild, and ArtsOC, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: *Spring Awakening*

Book & Lyrics by Steven Sater

Music by Duncan Sheik

Based on the play by Frank Wedekind

Directed by Jocelyn A. Brown

Music Directed by Robyn Manion

Choreographed by Mo Goodfellow

On the Cripe Stage...

Based on Frank Wedekind’s groundbreaking play, Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik’s brilliant rock score and searingly emotional book bring the story of sexual awakening, youth revolt, and self-discovery into a new century. It’s 1891, and the grown-ups hold all the cards. Headstrong Melchior and naive Wendla stumble into each other’s 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. Winner of eight Tony Awards, *Spring Awakening* features an electrifying fusion of morality, sexuality, and rock and roll, delivering a story that packs a powerful emotional punch.

Previews: July 11 - July 18, 2025; Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 7 p.m.

Opening Night: Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 8 p.m.

Performances: July 11 - August 10, 2025

Thursday 7:30 p.m., Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m.

RUNNING TIME: 2 hour, 30 minutes with intermission.

TICKETS: \$10 - \$58 (inclusive of fees)

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center on the Cripe Stage
5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center is located at 5522 E. La Palma Avenue in Anaheim Hills. Going west on La Palma from Imperial Highway, we are on the left in the front of the industrial park just past the In & Out. There is plenty of free convenient parking in front of the theater.

MORE INFO: www.ChanceTheater.com or call (888) 455-4212

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