

Bucknell

the department of theatre and dance presents

FRANK WEDEKIND'S

SPRING awakening



a provocative drama **of**
sexual discovery

friday, saturday, sunday & monday
october 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2006
8 p.m. harvey m. powers theatre

for mature audiences only

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS

FRANK WEDEKIND'S
SPRING
awakening

Stage Direction	Bob Gainer
Scene Design	F. Elaine Williams
Lighting Design & Technical Direction	Heath Hansum
Costume Design	Paula Davis-Larson
Assistant Costume Design	Emily Ganfield
Dramaturgy	Jean Peterson
Musical Composition and Direction	William Andrew Burnson '07
Video Direction	Todd Bieber
	Juliana Brafa '05
Stage Managers	Kimberly Pretz '07
	Lauren Gilchrist '07

CAST

CHILDREN

Melchior Gabor	Jon Ginn '07
Moritz Stiefel	Will Winner '08
Hanschen Rilow / Dieter	Alan Johnson-McNutt '08
Ernst Robel / Reinhold	Scott Van Pelt '10
Otto / Rupert	Jakob Schaeffer '10
George Litschnitz / Helmut	Craig Dwyer '10
Wendla Bergmann	Julia Frieri '10
Martha Bessel	Flor De Liz Perez '07
Thea	Megan Vodzak '09
Ilse	Nicole Fellows '10

PARENTS

Herr Gabor	Christopher North '07
Frau Gabor	Rachael Pearce '10
Frau Bergmann	Robertoa Reed '07
Herr Stiefel	Peter Kelly '07
Ina Mueller	Katie Reid '10

OTHER ADULTS

The Masked Man	Andy Nogasky '07
Dr. Lemonade	Francois Macheras '08
Dr. Prokrustes	Cristian Monterroza '09
Rev. Baldbelly	Ian Hartshorn '07
Uncle Probst	David Shepard '09
Fastcrawler, the School Porter	Joshua Dickinson '09

TEACHERS

Headmaster Sunstroke	Dennis Baumwoll
Professor Bonebreaker	John Cooper
Professor Gutgrinder	Alfred Siewers
Professor Tonguetwister	Peter Morris-Keitel
Professor Flyswatter	Peter Kresl

MUSICIANS

Conductor	William Andrew Burnson '07
Violin	Jonna Bove '08
Violin	Joseph Jalbert '08
Viola	Melanie Russell '09
Violoncello	Caitlin Russell '09

~~ There will be one 10-minute intermission ~~

PLEASE NOTE:

- Smoking, the taking of photographs, and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited.
- Please turn off your cell phones & beepers before the performance begins.

~~ Thank you

NOTES ON THE PLAY

Frank Wedekind's daring and provocative play, *Spring Awakening: A Children's Tragedy*, reads like a fever dream of the turbulent era that spawned it, and yet is startlingly contemporary. The questions that plague and torment its young protagonists — literally to death — still resonate, as does its caricature of an adult world blinded to its children's needs by pious illusions.

In vivid pointillistic strokes, Wedekind exposes a community dysfunctional on every level. Its education is an endurance test, demanding of its pupils the stamina of a "cart horse" and the disposition of a "donkey," but obstructing their access to any real information or understanding. "Oh, this feeling of shame!" cries the doomed Moritz. "What good is an encyclopedia if it doesn't answer the first questions about life?" Its justice is a sham, its religion a self-righteous and vindictive farce, and its "morality" smug, hypocritical, and authoritarian. Perhaps only in *Romeo and Juliet* do parents fail their children as spectacularly as they do in *Spring Awakening*.

Against this conspiracy to keep them shamed, docile and ignorant, the children struggle to understand the most basic urges of their bodies and their place in a world about to explode into the 20th Century. Wedekind captures both the exuberant energy of adolescence, and its wrenching despair. Forbidden and silenced, healthy desires turn to morbid fancies, sadistic dreams, and masochistic fantasies. Perhaps most tragically, the children lash out at one another, at themselves, in rage and violence. Only in rare, stolen moments do they — and we — experience the joy that might have been. "Oh God," exclaims Wendla, at one such idyll, in a lament that highlights the terrible isolation in which she and her companions yearn, "if someone could come and I could throw my arms around their neck and tell!"

Jean Peterson, Associate Professor of English
Dramaturge for *Spring Awakening*

Generous Support by the Bucknell Association for the Arts and the Richard A. Klein Theatre and Dance Endowment has made our 2006-2007 artistic season, guest artists' performances, master classes, workshops and residencies possible.

FRANK WEDEKIND AND HIS TIME 1864 - 1918

- 1864:** July- Frank (Benjamin Franklin) Wedekind born in Hanover, his parents having just returned from America, where his father practiced medicine after fleeing Germany in the wake of the failed 1848 revolution. His mother, Emilie, had left home at the age of sixteen to tour America as a singer.
- 1879:** Attends grammar school in Aarau. Schoolfriends call him the republikanischer Amerikaner; at home he is 'the thinker'.
- 1881:** Repeats a year on account of poor school grades, but school reports praise his zest for acting and writing.
- 1883:** Deaths of Karl Marx and Richard Wagner.
- 1884:** Matriculates. Studies German and French literature in Lausanne, then, under paternal pressure, Law in Münster.
- 1886:** Publishes *The Speedy Painter, or Art and Mammon*; abandons Law for Literature, and hits his father during a row over his future. In Hanover, befriends Karl Henckell and other socialists, artists and Zolaists, but expresses doubts about the worth of Naturalism.
- 1888:** Deaths of Kaiser Wilhem I and Wedekind's father. Inherits enough money to allow him to travel. Writes *Spring Awakening – A Children's Tragedy* in Munich.
- 1890:** Bismark resigns the chancellorship under Kaiser Wilhelm II.
- 1891:** Pays for publication of *Spring Awakening* in Zurich, though he has no hopes of a performance on account of the sexual content, and the ages of the protagonists.
- 1895:** Langen publishes *Earth Spirit* – the first of two *Lulu* plays. German theatre is too obsessed with Naturalism to take it up. Performs recitations from Ibsen – who he doesn't regard as a Naturalist – to earn money.
- 1896:** Meets Strindberg, and the following year, has a son by Strindberg's ex-wife, Frieda.
- 1898:** Bertolt Brecht born.
- 1899:** Freud publishes *The Interpretation of Dreams*.
- 1904:** Premiere of the second *Lulu* play, *Pandora's Box*. The printed copies are confiscated by the police.
- 1906:** November – premiere of *Spring Awakening* in Berlin, directed by Max Reinhardt. Premiere of *Dance of Death*, which is then banned.
- 1908:** Austria annexes Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 1909:** Appears in seven of his plays, including *Censorship*.
- 1914:** Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, and the outbreak of war. Wedekind's 50th birthday is celebrated with a Wedekind season in Berlin. He has an operation for appendicitis.
- 1916:** Publishes his play *Bismarck*.
- 1918:** After a last operation, Wedekind dies on 9 March. His funeral resembles a farce; a young admirer makes a film of the ceremony, maneuvering the mourners like extras, then jumps hysterically into the grave, and has to be hauled out by bystanders. Brecht attends, and later writes:

*They stood helplessly in stove-pipe hats,
Like vultures around a prey. Startled
ravens. Try as they might, sweating tears,
They couldn't bury the jester.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Assistant Professor Kelly Knox of Bucknell's Dance Program; Gary Parks; Director of Slifer House Museum; Bloomsburg University Dept. of Theatre & Dance; Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble; Professors Peter Morris-Keitel, Helen Morris-Keitel, and Katie Faull, Bucknell's Foreign Language Program; Professor Harold Schweizer; Penn State University's School of Theatre Arts; Jeff Mullan; Jim and Lindy Van Fleet; Bill Payn, Jackson Hill, Bill Kenny, Janet Clapp, and Chris Para, Bucknell's Department of Music. Joe DiMola, Iris Rifkin-Gainer.

SLIDE IMAGES COURTESY OF THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director..... Heath Hansum
Assistant Technical Director..... R. Christopher Stokes
Stage Managers..... Kimberly Pretz, Lauren Gilchrist
Assistant Stage Managers..... Megan McShea
Set Construction and Electrics ... Jonathan Backhaus, Jeffrey Riling, Benjamin E. Rimai
Hazel Ruiz, Joe Rusiewicz, Christopher Shake,
Lauren Vaughn, Christopher Kulish, Steven Kosiba
Lightboard Operator..... Steven Kosiba
Projection Design Jon Ginn, Aubri Jenson, Andy Nogasky,
Chris North, F. Elaine Williams,
Properties and Paints..... Melissa Duceman, Brittany Durbin,
Jon Ginn, Aubri Jenson, Chris North
Projection Operator Wenbo Shan
Costumer..... Pam Miller
Costume Design Intern Emily Ganfield
Costume Construction..... Gloria Clendaniel, Tara Hankinson,
Emily Riggins, Shawna Rowan, Emily Senko, Rachel Stanton
Makeup Designer Sofija Nikolic
Makeup and Hair..... Sofija Nikolic, Elaine Teng, Elena Augustine, Meghan Radelet
Dressers..... Tara Pedersen, Emily Riggins
Public Relations..... Allison Brady, Rachael Pearce
Presidential Fellows ... Jonathan Backhaus, Aubri Jenson, Andy Nogasky, Joe Rusiewicz
House Manager..... Abby Borden
Poster Design & Program Cover Andy Nogasky

THEA 101 Crews: At the time that this program was printed, a complete list of the production staff was unavailable. We would like to thank all those without whose help this show would not be possible.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Paula Davis-Larson, costume design and history
Christine Fry, academic assistant
Robert Gainer, chair, acting and directing
Gary Grant, theatre history, theory, directing
F. Elaine Williams, scenography
Heath Hansum, technical direction, lighting
R. Christopher Stokes, technical direction intern
Laurie McCants, theatre (fall 2006)
Er-Dong Hu, director of dance, dance technique and theory
Kelly Knox, dance technique and theory
Pam Miller, costumer
Emily Ganfield, costume design intern

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Miss Julie

November 17, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. • Tustin Studio Theatre

Fall Dance Concert

December 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. • Harvey M. Powers Theatre

The Lovers

February 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. • Harvey M. Powers Theatre

The Firebugs

February 16, 17, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. • Tustin Studio Theatre

Urinetown, the Musical

April 13, 14, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. • Harvey M. Powers Theatre

Spring Dance Concert

April 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. • Weis Center for the Performing Arts