

Spring Awakening Cast Biographies

Samantha Hill (Wendla)

At 14, thanks to her 20th century upbringing, Samantha may have known more than Wendla, but being an overachieving metal mouth with moral undertones kept her dating experience quite tame. These days Samantha has a wonderful, supportive boyfriend, a lovely set of straight teeth and feels blessed to be able to do what she loves, perform. Samantha is a graduate of the BFA Acting program at the University of Alberta and of the University of Winnipeg Theatre Department. Upcoming, Samantha can be seen in *August: Osage County* at the RMT Warehouse and in *Chicago* at the Mayfield in Edmonton.

Connie Manfredi (Martha)

Connie just received her BAH in Acting from the University of Winnipeg. Along with *Spring Awakening* producer Ryan Segal, she is a founding member of The District Theatre Collective; a new company whose first production, *Avenue Q*, premieres in February 2012. She is thrilled to have been given the opportunity to release her inner German teenager in this fantastic show.

Julie Lumsden (Thea)

This is Julie's first time working professionally in theatre. Her favourite musical theatre moment was playing Dorothy Gale in the Sturgeon Heights Collegiate production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Julie cannot wait to rock out with the rest of the talented Spring Awakening cast!

Shayna Paulicelli (Anna)

Shayna has been performing since she was 6 (!) and became involved with musical theatre in Grade 5. Her favourites include *Ragtime* at Grant Park High School and *Wicked* with the Junior Musical Theatre Company. Shayna hopes to be releasing an album soon and is extremely excited to be a part of this amazing show. "All shall know the wonder of purple summer."

Aubrey Erickson (Ilse)

It's exciting to be in Winnipeg with new people, in a place where great shows happen (MTC Warehouse) and to be a part of a Tony-award winning show with a fantastic cast and crew. *Spring Awakening* is a musical you must see. The music is catchy, the show is both humorous and heart-wrenching, and it is timelessly suitable for mature teen's right through to adults because they can identify with the coming-of-age issues.

Jeremy Walmsley (Melchior)

Jeremy is thrilled to be working on such a challenging, rewarding and beautiful show. Jeremy trained at the Academy of Acting College for Theatre and Film. Some of his favourite credits include: *Todd and The Book of Pure Evil* (TV series), *Velocity* (Persephone Theatre), and *Altar Boyz* (Winnipeg Studio Theatre). Look for him next year in the remount of *Altar Boyz* in Prairie Theatre Exchange's season, *Angels of America* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre) and *The Buddy Holly Story* (Globe Theatre).

Aaron Pridman (Georg)

Aaron is a recent graduate of the University of Winnipeg's Honors theatre program. He is extremely excited to work with such an amazing group of people, as well as to achieve his life goal; performing on stage as an 'angsty' German teen. Look for him early next year in The District Theatre Collective's performance of *Avenue Q*!

Nyk Bielak (Otto)

Nyk is thrilled about sharing the stage with such creative and talented blah blah blah, acting credits blah blah, Honours Acting Degree blah blah blah, *Avenue Q* blah blah blah, love to the Fam, Sweet Pals, blah blah and J9... blah!

Dan Szymanski (Hanschen)

Dan has been an active participant in Winnipeg's live entertainment scene since 2007. Some of his favourite productions include *Carmen* with Manitoba Opera, *Beauty and the Beast* (Rainbow Stage) and Winnipeg Studio Theatre's premiere musical production of *HAIR - The Rock Musical*. Dan is excited to 'rock out' during this season's production of *Spring Awakening* alongside a cast and crew of such talented individuals.

Colin Peterson (Moritz)

Colin Peterson is thrilled to be amongst the tremendous cast of lovely and talented people. He's been involved in Winnipeg's musical theatre scene for several years now with some favorites being: *I Love You Because* with It's Who You Know Productions at this year's Fringe Festival, and *Anne Frank* with the University of Winnipeg Theatre program. He's looking forward to performing this challenging and exciting show!

Nelson Bettencourt (Ernst)

Nelson Bettencourt has been performing in musical theatre since early high school and is currently working toward a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Music. Nelson's favourite musicals include anything by Stephen Sondheim or Schwartz, but he loves the classics from Rodgers and Hammerstein to Kurt Weill. He can't wait to get started on *Spring Awakening* and is excited to work with some of Winnipeg's most talented performers.

Mariam Bernstein (Adult Female)

A graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Mariam has been acting and directing professionally for 25 years. Her favourite productions include *Sweeney Todd (Dry Cold)*, *Mrs. Klein (MTC)*, *Death of a Salesman (WJT)*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream (Neptune)*. By sheer dumb luck, Mariam attended Lea Michelle's and Jonathan Groff's final Broadway performance in *Spring Awakening* - amazing! She is delighted to portray the oppressed, repressed, and sadly ignorant adult woman in Winnipeg Studio Theatre's *Spring Awakening*.

Arne MacPherson (Adult Male)

Arne makes a living creating theatre as an actor, director, and instructor. Acting credits include the title role in *Shakespeare's Dog* by Rick Chafe (MTC/National Arts Centre), in the roles of Hamlet, Iago, Richard III, Mercutio and others (SIR). Recent credits: *Way to Heaven* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre), *Talk* by Michael Nathanson at Prairie Scene in Ottawa, *Islands* (a multi-disciplinary devised performance) performed in Reykjavik, Iceland. He lives in Winnipeg with partner Deb Patterson and kids Gislina and Solmund.

Chorus:**Tiera Watts**

Tiera Watts, 16, has been performing in live theatre for seven years. Tiera has lived in Winnipeg her whole life but has also had the opportunity to perform in New York City. Favourite performances include: *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Twelfth Night*. Tiera is thrilled to be a part of the wild and wonderful show that is *Spring Awakening*.

David Fox

David Fox is thrilled to be a part of *Spring Awakening* as one of his very first performances in the musical theatre genre. Some of his favourites include *Wicked*, *Next to Normal*, and *The Book of Mormon*. He has also appeared in *The Fabulous Four* at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival and *Motifs and Repetitions* with the BHTC.

Haley Vincent

Haley has been involved in Musical Theatre for eight years, and absolutely loves it! She recently started her first year at the University of Winnipeg, hoping to major in theatre. Haley is very excited to be doing her first show with Winnipeg Studio Theatre, especially since it's one of her favourite musicals - *Spring Awakening*!

Markian Tarasiuk

Markian is thrilled to be a part of another musical after performing in the sold-out Fringe hit *Zanna, Don't!* Other stage credits include *Over the Tavern* (MTC), *The Full Monty* (Rainbow Stage), and *Macbeth* (Stratford School of Shakespeare). This spring Markian will be attending Studio 58 Theatre School in Vancouver. Much love to family and friends for their support!

Tatiana Carnevale

Tatiana Carnevale is excited to be sharing the stage with so many of her talented friends this winter in *Spring Awakening*! She has spent the last few years creating, acting, directing, and producing at the University of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. Enjoy the show!