

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kate Walat
212-609-5900 x246
kwalat@tcg.org

STEVEN SATER/DUNCAN SHEIK'S HIT MUSICAL

SPRING AWAKENING

WINNER OF EIGHT TONY AWARDS

PUBLISHED BY TCG BOOKS

“A kind of miracle. The staggering purity of this show will touch all open hearts. In its refined, imaginative simplicity, it daringly reverses all the conventional rules by returning the American musical to an original state of innocence. The best new musical I’ve seen in a generation.” —John Heilpern, *The New York Observer*

“Excellent, gritty, groundbreaking *Spring Awakening* gave an unexpected jolt of sudden genius to wake up the hidebound Broadway musical. Edgy in its brutally honest, unromanticized depiction of human sexuality, the night is made heart-rending and magical by themes common to all.” —Clive Barnes, *New York Post*

“Broadway may never be the same. This brave new musical, haunting and electrifying by turns, restores the mystery, the thrill to that shattering transformation that stirs in all our souls.” —Charles Isherwood, *New York Times*

NEW YORK, October 2007—Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of **the groundbreaking rock musical *Spring Awakening*, with book and lyrics by Steven Sater and music by Duncan Sheik**, a show that is credited with revitalizing Broadway and transforming American musical theatre. Inspired by Wedekind’s once-banned 1891 German play about teenage sexuality and society’s efforts to control it, *Spring Awakening* depicts the timelessness of adolescent angst and the universality of human passion. Its Broadway production was awarded **eight Tony Awards, including for Best Musical, Best Original Score and Best Book of a musical**, and is attracting a new generation of theatergoers.

-more-

“Subtitled ‘A Children’s Tragedy,’ Wedekind’s play is full of the unheard, anguished cries of young people,” writes Steven Sater in the book’s preface. “It struck me that pop music—rock music—is the exact place that adolescents for the last few generations have found release from, and expression of, that same mute pain. But I never dreamt that, by letting his characters actually sing, we would end up so profoundly transforming his work.”

Sater elaborates: “We wrote songs as confession (‘There is a part I can’t tell, about the dark I know well’). Songs as denial (‘Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh...well, fine’) or admission (‘It’s the bitch of living as someone you can’t stand’). Songs as cri de coeur (‘But there’s nowhere to hide from the ghost in my mind...’). Somehow, I felt, we still remained true to that inchoate yearning of Wedekind’s youths.”

Steven Sater’s plays include the long-running *Carbondale Dreams*, *Perfect for You*, and the award-winning *Doll* and *Umbrage*, as well as a reconceived version of Shakespeare’s *Tempest*, with music by Laurie Anderson, which played London’s Lyric Hammersmith and toured internationally.

Duncan Sheik is a Grammy Award-nominated singer-songwriter, whose hit single “Barely Breathing” spent 30 weeks on the Billboard charts. Mr. Sheik has composed original music for *The Golden Rooms of Nero* and the Public Theater/Shakespeare in the Park production of *Twelfth Night*.

Other collaborations between Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik include *The Nightingale*, an upcoming musical based on the Hans Christian Andersen classic.

###

Theatre Communications Group is the national organization for the American theatre, encompassing a membership of 17,000 individuals as well as more than 460 theatre companies located throughout the United States, which present performances to an annual attendance of more than 17 million. Founded in 1961, TCG provides a variety of artistic, administrative and informational services to theatres and independent theatre artists, and acts as a forum for the profession and a resource for the media, funding agencies and the public. TCG is the publisher of *American Theatre* magazine, ARTSEARCH, and a line of performing arts books. Please visit our website and online bookstore at www.tcg.org.

Spring Awakening
by Steven Sater/Duncan Sheik
Paperback 112pp
\$13.95
978-1-55936-315-0
October 2007

TCG books are exclusively distributed to the book trade by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution. Orders: 800-283-3572. SAN number: 63170X. Individuals may call 212-609-5900 or visit our online bookstore at www.tcg.org. For postage and handling, please add \$5.00 for the first book and \$.50 for each additional copy.