

UTA DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
PEER EVALUATION OF CREATIVE AND/OR RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Name of Professor being evaluated: **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AUSTIN EYER**

Project/production being evaluated: **SPRING AWAKENING**

Date of online* evaluation: **April 10, 2021**

*Due to the COVID pandemic, the production was filmed and streamed online.

Evaluator's Name: Andrew Christopher Gaupp, MFA, AEA, SDC Assoc.

Evaluator's Academic Title: Professor and Associate Department Chair

Evaluator's Academic Institution of Employment: The University of Texas at Arlington

This production was selected for production during the COVID pandemic for both the theme and subject matter and the ability to stage it in a socially distanced way. **SPRING AWAKENING**, Book and lyrics by Steven Satar, Music by Duncan Sheik.

Based on the play by Frank Wedekind. Streamed online April 2-4, 2021.

"The winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical...*Spring Awakening* explores the journey from adolescence to adulthood with a poignancy and passion that is illuminating and unforgettable." --MTI

Permission was obtained from MTI to film the musical for online streaming due to the pandemic. This required Professor Eyer to develop a way to safely stage the production so as not to endanger the health of the cast and crew. He met with the Tech and Production Manager to go over safety protocols as developed by the department from the CDC, university, and professional standards. Professor Eyer made clear choices in highlighting textual moments in song, speech and movement that emphasized the structure of the piece.

A set of protocols was implemented that included forced air circulation, a limitation on the number of people in a space at one time, social distancing, sanitary conditions, and the wearing of masks whenever possible. A scenic design had to be created that met both the

needs of the production and the health protocols. Movement was somewhat limited to personal spaces onstage as a result of social distancing, except for entrances, exits, and spaced, group movement. Still the choreographed movement enhanced the piece, was executed well by the performers, and seemed appropriate for the content. The direction of this filmed work was very well done, and Professor Eyer was successful in how he brought the various production elements together in the final filming and edit.

I followed the development of the piece and was highly impressed with what the director/choreographer was able to achieve with the physical limitations placed upon him due to social distancing. I found the scene work to be cleverly designed, staged, filmed, and edited.

As an example, the shadow work between two characters in love created an even stronger emotional response for me than if they had actually touched. This was but one moment in the piece, but it exemplifies the creativity Professor Eyer used throughout.

I feel that Professor Eyer exceeded my expectations of the work. I congratulate Austin on his directorial and choreographic concept and his success in fulfilling it onstage in performance.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Gaupp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Prof. Andrew Christopher Gaupp, MFA, AEA, SDC Assoc.

On April 13, 2021