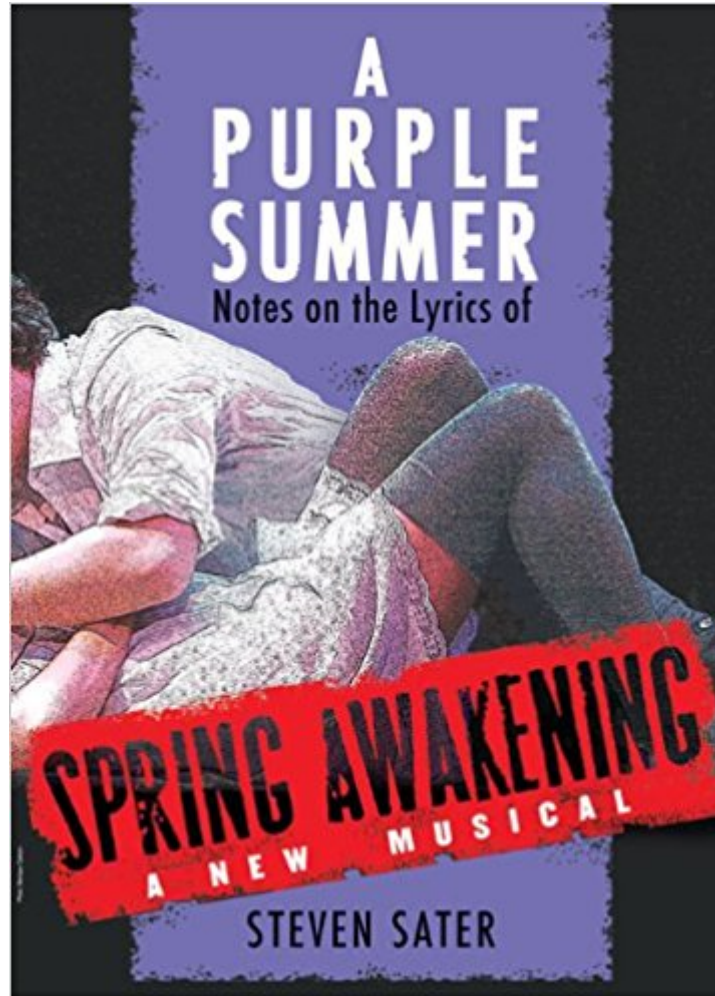


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# A Purple Summer: Notes On The Lyrics Of Spring Awakening



## Synopsis

(Applause Books). In February 1999, Steven Sater conceived the radical notion of creating a rock musical from Frank Wedekind's notorious Symbolist drama, *Fruhlings Erwachen*, and he enlisted his friend and writing partner Duncan Sheik in the enterprise. That night, Sater came home and began writing the first lyric of *Spring Awakening*: "Mama Who Bore Me" a lyric which still stands, verbatim, just as he first wrote it. Ten years later, in the wake of the enormous international success of this groundbreaking, multiaward-winning show, its original director, Michael Mayer, urged Sater to write notes explicating its famously evocative, poetic lyrics. In rich detail, Sater's notes address the literary sources and allusions of each lyric. He also writes feelingly of what prompted the songs over the course of the show's eight years of development. In so doing, Sater expands on his partnership with Sheik and his experiences with original cast members, Lea Michele and Jonathan Groff, now also known from *Glee*. These notes will prove invaluable for fans of the show, for all those interested in theater, and most especially for all the young performers who will play the roles and sing these songs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I recently performed in this show and used this book to get a little more background on the lyrics and their meaning. This show is rich with references that may be lost on the actor without this book. Definitely worth a read if you plan on performing this show or are just looking for more information about the show!

This small companion book by Steven Sater (a.k.a the lyricist who penned the cryptic, poetic, and often unintelligible words to Spring Awakening) is a GREAT resource for any actor or other artist who wants to be able to bring new depth and layers to their performance of the material. His writing is somewhat dense at times (though that should come at no surprise...) but it is filled with images, clarifications, and suggestions that will help you make strong, deep choices. Highly recommend!

This book is very helpful for the curious listener or the thespian getting in touch with their Spring Awakening character. Steven Sater gives great explanations for each of his beautiful lyrics and even shares a few of the original lyrics which were changed. The book itself is small, but definitely worth the money.

The book is insightful about each song and their origins on top of what Sater's intentions were with certain lyrics. The only complaint is that it's a bit short. It's an easy book to finish in one sitting. It's great if you want to learn more about the music or if you're actually in a production and want to know what the hell you're singing.

I for one am someone who loves to know the creative process behind songs and various other ideas, so reading this was an absolute splendor for me. It came in great condition.

A quick read, but for fans of the musical, lyricist Steven Sater's insights are indispensable. I learned much about the story as told through the songs, and the significance of the staging.

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