

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN

Based on the Comic Strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz
Book, Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner



First Congregational Church of Somerville
89 College Avenue, Somerville, MA
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<http://www.TheatreAtFirst.org>

Fri April 8	8pm
Sat April 9	2pm & 8pm
Fri April 15	8pm
Sat April 16	2pm & 8pm

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The first Peanuts comic strip ever to grace the pages of a newspaper appeared on October 2nd, 1950. Its start was rather unassuming: two characters mocked Charlie Brown as he walked by. (Those two characters were later dropped from the script. Justice?) Reading the paper on that chilly Autumn morning, who would have known that Peanuts would become the most popular comic strip in the world, published in 2,600 newspapers around the globe, and that its creator, the friendly and somewhat shy Charles M. Schulz, would become the most influential comic artist of the 20th century?

About 16 years later, in December of 1966, MGM released a record album entitled "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown". The album was intended as a media tie-in to the comic strip, and the songs were written by a then-unknown musician and playwright by the name of Clark Gesner. The album was quite popular and was noticed by noted Broadway producer Arthur Whitelaw, who contacted Gesner and asked him to write a full-length play around his songs. And so, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", the musical, was born. It debuted off-Broadway in 1967, starring Gary Burghoff—later to play "Radar" O'Reilly on the hit TV series *M*A*S*H*—as Charlie Brown. It was an instant success.

And so we bring you our own take on this successful musical. In this production, we've taken inspiration from the comic strip itself. Charles M. Schulz not only made us all laugh but also expressed profound truths, all the time using very simple line drawing and unpretentious, sincere dialog. We've taken those traits as our watchwords: simple and sincere. We hope to use those same principles to bring you a show that you'll both enjoy and identify with—just like we all identify with Charlie Brown even as we laugh at him.

I hope you enjoy it.

— *Matt Kimmel*

NOTICE: Smoking is not permitted inside the building. Flash photography is not allowed during the performance. Please silence your cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices. Thank you.

CAST

Charlie Brown..... J. Michael Spencer
Lucy..... Kirsten Engebretson
Linus..... Jake Aaron
Sally..... Alissa Lerman
Schroeder..... Michael Babish
Snoopy..... Jacey L. Bokuniewicz
Pigpen..... Gilly Rosenthol
Eudora..... Maitland Lederer
Frieda..... Maddy Myers
Shermy..... Chad Elder

Piano.....Christine Worrall

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown..... Company
Schroeder (Moonlight Sonata)..... Lucy & Schroeder
Snoopy..... Snoopy
My Blanket and Me..... Linus & Chorus
The Kite.....Charlie Brown
Dr. Lucy..... Lucy & Charlie Brown
The Book Report..... Schroeder, Lucy,
Linus, Charlie Brown

ACT II

My New Philosophy..... Sally & Schroeder
T-E-A-M (The Baseball Game)..... Charlie Brown &
Company
The Glee Club Rehearsal..... Company
Little Known Facts..... Lucy, Linus, Charlie Brown
Suppertime..... Snoopy & Company
Happiness..... Company

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Based on The Comic Strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz

Book, Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner

Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer

Additional Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Original Direction for this version of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" by Michael Mayer

Originally Produced in New York by Arthur Whitelaw and Gene Persson

Produced by arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY

Music and dialogue material furnished by TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC.,

560 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

STAFF

Producer Kerri Centrella
Stage Director Matt Kimmel
Music Director J. Michael Spencer
Assistant Music Director/Piano Christine Worrall
Choreographer Erika Reinfeld
Stage Manager Sarah Bradford
Assistant Stage Manager Mare Freed
House Manager Chris DeKalb
Assistant House Manager Beckie Hunter
Production Designer Jacey Bokuniewicz
Technical Director Jo Guthrie
Assistant Technical Director Jim Powers
Sound Designer/Webmaster Neil Marsh
Assistant Sound Designer Shaunna Francis
Lightboard Operator Faatin Chaudhury
Props Manager Michelle Goldberg
Make-Up Artist Melody Moening
Publicity Director Elizabeth Hunter
Ad Sales Manager Jude Shabry
Photographer Margaret Hart
Promotional Design Gilly Rosenthol

THEATRE@FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE

President Beckie Hunter
Artistic Director Elizabeth Hunter
Vice President Mare Freed
Treasurer Kerri Centrella
Members at Large

Molly Baskette	Sarah Bradford
Chris Dekalb	Jo Guthrie
Matt Kimmel	Neil Marsh
Jason Merrill	John Olson
Erika Reinfeld	Gilly Rosenthol
Jude Shabry	Michael Spencer

SPECIAL THANKS

Theatre@First thanks the following:

Rev. Molly Baskette and all the members of FCS.

Our dedicated and tenacious team of volunteers, including various members of the cast and crew. Thank you for building our set, working the box office, selling our products, and generally making these shows happen.

Atlantis Playmakers

A very special thank you to Frederick Bokuniewicz, the Stevenson Family, and Emily Hurn. Without them we would have no words to say and no set on which to say them.

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Kim Ardolino	Melanie Arzt	Elizabeth Assenza
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Ted Beatie	Liz Danner	Katie Dimarca
Rebecca Dowgiert	Erica Edwards	Mary Ferrara
Ben Fierce	Sara Folta	Dibbie Gilmore
Ari Herzog	Jinevra Howard	Barbara Huber
Elizabeth Hunter	Vin Maganzini	Diana Matis
Jason Merrill	Zachary Newton	David Policar
Elizabeth Ryan	Mario Salinas	Debbie Steiner
Joye Thaller	Sarah Train	Jenny Lee Utech

Work Days and Other Ways:

Jack Dietz	Regis Donovan	Shaunna Francis
Dave Glod	James Kebinger	Jason Merrill
Mink Myers	John Olson	Jude Shabry
Andie Stabler		

We also thank our friends, family, and all the members of our audience. Without your support of the arts, we wouldn't be here.

CAST

JAKE AARON (Linus) makes his Theatre@First debut with *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. He performs around Boston in professional and community theatres as well as at his high school, Newton North High School. Recently, he appeared as Dickon in *The Secret Garden* at the Savoyard Light Opera Company. Favorites include Fleet in *Titanic*; Freddy, *My Fair Lady*; Featured Dancer, *42nd Street*; Harding, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; Pippin, *Pippin*; and Hawker, *Tommy*. He would like to thank anyone who regularly says, "You're welcome."

MICHAEL BABISH (Schroeder) Like Schroeder, I began playing the piano many, many years ago. Unlike Schroeder, I stopped playing shortly afterwards. Ironically, the most complicated thing that I ever learned to play was the "Linus and Lucy" theme song. I don't pretend to understand Schroeder's lifelong obsession with Beethoven and the other great musicians, but his simple dedication to his craft is something that I've always admired. I'd like to thank Matt and everyone else for letting me be a part of this show. It has been a lot of fun!

JACEY L. BOKUNIEWICZ (Snoopy, Production Designer) Jacey is very happy to be making her Theater@First debut as Snoopy. She has been involved in theater since the age of 6 — from acting to directing, from designing to stage-managing — you name it, she's done it! Jacey was last seen on stage in 2004 playing Carol in David Mamet's two-person drama *Oleanna* with Atlantis Playmakers. Other favorite roles include: Rosalind (*As You Like It*), Dromio of Syracuse (*Comedy of Errors*), Puck (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Felicia (*I Hate Hamlet*), Lenny (*Crimes of the Heart*), and Pepper (*The Noodle Doodle Box*). Jacey would like to thank Matt for the fun, Christine for the music, Sarah for the sanity, and her dad — "The best guy EVER!" for helping build the set. Much love to cast and crew — remember, "Happiness is a warm puppy" and all that good stuff!

CHAD ELDER (Shermy) is excited to make his debut in a Theatre@First production! Chad works in the Education Department at The Wang Center, and he recently graduated from Penn State. His past roles include Charlemagne in *Pippin*, Father in *Children of Eden*, Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Fagin in *Oliver*, and Bela Zangler in *Crazy for You*.

KIRSTEN ENGBRETSON (Lucy) is AWESOME! A fresh new talent, discovered in the wilds of Pizzeria Uno's in Harvard Square, she has oft been known to sing for her supper. Kirsten feels that Lucy Van Pelt has a very promising future as a pop star but worries that Schroeder would not approve. In perhaps the closest similarity to her character, Kirsten enjoys teaching little known facts to aspiring divas at youth drama camps. Her life goal is to become Sophia from the Golden Girls. Kirsten dedicates this performance to her friends, family, and the person who wrote this biography for her. She would have written it herself, but she was feeling a little crabby.

MAITLAND LEDERER (Eudora) is excited to be part of the show. Prior to this play, she was Gertrude in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* and Dawn in *Universal Language*. By day she is but a lowly software engineer, but by night she is Robotica, the android queen. Maitland would like to thank the Academy, Vikash and World Peace.

ALISSA LERMAN (Sally) Alissa's first T@F role was in *Murder in the Cathedral* as a woman who made peanuts, with lots of mouths to feed. Now, she's playing a mouthy Peanut. Coincidence? She'd like to salute the cast and crew for their talent, panache, and patience. A big hug and hello to her inimitable Aunt Sally!

MADDY MYERS (Frieda) This is Maddy's first theatre experience outside of public school or summer camp productions. In the course of her theatre career she has been in the ensembles of *Annie*, *The Music Man*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Once On This Island*, *Les Miserables*, and *My Fair Lady*. She has also played Veruca Salt in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Leading Player in *Pippin*, the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Mrs. Elbert Stevenson in *Sorry, Wrong Number*. She is proud to contribute her talent and love for theatre to a more professional production.

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GILLY ROSENTHOL (Pigpen, Promotional Design) is pleased to appear once again in the chorus of a T@F production, although this time with less depressing poetry and more tap dancing. She has previously appeared on the T@F stage as Ramon in *Variations on the Death of Trotsky* and as a chorus member for *Murder in the Cathedral*.

J. MICHAEL SPENCER (Charlie Brown, Music Director) is thrilled to be a part of this production. He has previously appeared with T@F as Al in *The Philadelphia* and as the First Knight in *Murder in the Cathedral*. He has designed the lighting for *Murder in the Cathedral* and for *Talley's Folly*. He would like to thank everyone involved with this show, in any capacity, from director to actors to audience, for making this the memorable experience it is.

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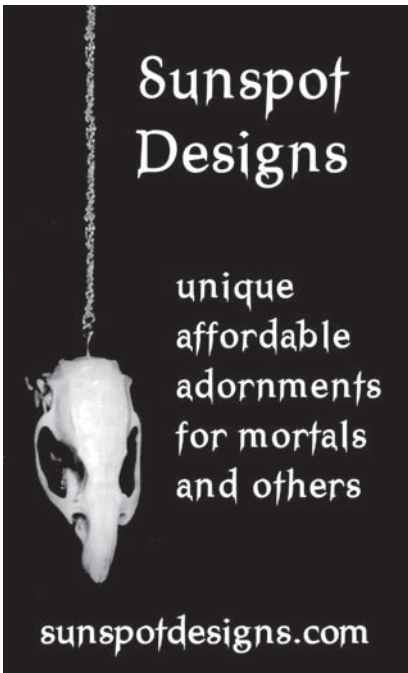
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STAFF

SARAH BRADFORD (Stage Manager) has no interest in acting, and only occasional interest in being whatever a Stage Manager is. We humor her as she doodles on our scripts and generally looks confused. This is her fourth production with Theatre@First.

KERRI CENTRELLA (Producer) is pleased to be participating in her fourth T@F production. She has been acting since the third grade, but is a first time producer. If you all have programmes and tickets, she has probably done alright. Thanks to Matt, Erika, Spence, and all the other fantastic folks involved. Enjoy the show!

FAATIN CHAUDHURY (Lightboard Operator) Recently seen moping about in the aisles, hissing at audience members in *Murder in the Cathedral*, she is delighted to have the glamorous opportunity to be the Lightboard Operator for *Charlie Brown!* For this I have only Matt to thank. :) When not whining about not being required to attend every rehearsal, she could be found moonlighting with another theatre group... But we all know that T@F is my ain true love.



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CHRIS DEKALB (House Manager) Returning for his fifth production with Theatre@First, Chris DeKalb is happy to be back. It also helps that the T@F gang are crazy enough to keep telling him about new productions. During the day Chris works as an Outsourcer Manager and is also the Editor of the Cambridge Movie News (www.cambridgemovies.com)

MARE FREED (Assistant Stage Manager) took a break from acting this winter to help the Peanuts gang backstage. Previous appearances have included roles in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *All in the Timing*, and *Murder in the Cathedral*.

SHAUNNA FRANCIS (Assistant Sound Design) This is Shaunna's first production in 8 years. She is tickled to be assisting with sound. She always wanted to be a techie. As always she would like to thank her parents for everything. She would like to thank Neil for showing her cool gadgets and answering questions. She would like to thank Mikey B. for introducing her to such a cool theater group full of hip people and for introducing her to Matt. To Matt, I am proud of you and I wuv u.

MICHELLE GOLDBERG (Props Manager) This will be the third Theatre@First show at which Mikka has lurked backstage, moving objects about in patterns both mysterious and inexplicable.

JO GUTHRIE (Technical Director) Deeply bitter from internal angst and bitter scorn, Jo turned to Theatre@First with an eye towards using her deep passions towards a greater good. Drawing deeply from the welling emotions, waiting until the very last minute, she poured herself into this endeavor to find herself transformed by the combined powers of the cast and crew into a beautiful flower. No, wait, wrong story. I think she meant to say that she really likes working with everyone and hopes everyone has a nice day (and buys memberships).



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MARGARET HART (Photographer) Margaret's daytime career as innocent high school physics teacher belies her secret existence as photographer of the stars. You can see her work scattered throughout the short history of Theatre at First on our website, in our lobby where you see our previous productions, and currently here on the cover of your playbill. Or catch more of her work on her website at www.margarethart.com/gallery.

BECKIE HUNTER (Assistant House Manager) is a founder of Theatre@First and a member of First Church. She had the acting bug in high school, treading the boards in plays such as *Up the Down Stair Case*, *Our Town* and *Charlie's Aunt*, but moved in front of the curtain to produce 3 shows for T@F in the past year: *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern*, *Murder in the Cathedral* and *Talley's Folly*. She is very excited and glad to help out on T@F's first musical!

ELIZABETH HUNTER (Publicity Director) follows a meditative path of doing only what is necessary, which is how she got roped into handling publicity for this show. Thank you for validating her efforts with your presence. On other days what is necessary includes serving as Artistic Director of Theatre@First and as director of several previous shows.

Theatre@First's Second Annual Evening of One-Acts



Auditions:

Week of May 9

Performances:

Weekends of July 15 & 22

<http://www.TheatreAtFirst.org>



Theatre@First Shop

Visit the Theatre@First souvenir shop at <http://www.cafepress.com/theatreatfirst> to buy T@F shirts, hats, and other fine goods, as well as t-shirts from some of our previous shows.

MATT KIMMEL (Director) This is Matt's third show with Theatre@First, and his second time in the director's chair for the group. Matt has been a devoted (or, as the cast has said, "obsessive") Peanuts fan since childhood, and so he's delighted to be directing *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* for T@F. Before moving to the bright lights of Boston, Matt spent many years working in community theatre in Western Mass, directing shows such as *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Flowers for Algernon*. When he's not at rehearsal, Matt runs the Engineering department at a nearby computer game company, does improv comedy, and occasionally even sleeps. Matt would like to thank his amazing and talented cast and crew, the wonderful and supportive people of Theatre@First, Shaunna, and the capitol of Rhode Island.

NEIL MARSH (Sound Design, Webmaster) majored in Broadcasting at Ball State University in Muncie, IN and was a recipient of that school's *David Letterman Scholarship*. His obsession with modern radio drama greatly concerns many of the cast and crew. Perhaps it is time for some of Lucy's "nickel therapy". Good grief!

MELODY MOENING (Makeup Artist) Trading in her previous uniform of spangled bodysuits for something more appropriate, Melody gave up her career as a dancer and circus performer to move from Florida to Massachusetts. She now is a makeup artist for Benefit Cosmetics and is forced to suppress her natural urge to use glitter and fake lashes on a daily basis. Melody loves her job, and freelances throughout Boston, but sometimes misses the elephants terribly.

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JIM POWERS (Assistant Technical Director) is an upstanding citizen and anything you may have heard to the contrary was probably talking about someone else. With a background in Boy Scout tomfoolery and literary hijinks, Jim views life as an ongoing choose-your-own adventure story. A strong advocate of the spoken word, such things as writing his own biography are of course beneath him. Many thanks to the person who wrote this for him; if you actually want to know what's going on in his life, please look for the sideburns and belt buckle.

ERIKA REINFELD (Choreographer) likes to think that she piloted the technique of "Collaborative Choreography" way back in college when she helped an all-female cast of congressmen dance their way to independence in 1776. This declaration is somewhat presumptuous, however, so she would instead like to humbly thank the cast for putting up with her slightly unconventional methodology. Special thanks go out to the members of the Peanuts Gallery who offered their own expertise to make these numbers happen. Erika's hobbies include astronomy education and public outreach, and moving furniture from Somerville to Medford. Her favorite type of nut is the Sarah.

CHRISTINE WORRALL (Assistant Musical Director, Piano) is excited to join Theatre@First for *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Her previous musical theatre experiences include *Cabaret*, *Blood Brothers*, and *West Side Story*.

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ABOUT THEATRE@FIRST

Theatre@First is Somerville's newest community theatre project, sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Somerville. We fill an important niche in the vibrant Davis Square arts scene, drawing upon the talents and contributions of individuals and organizations throughout the community to provide a venue for thought-provoking and entertaining performing arts for all those who love to be on either side of the curtain.

T@F welcomes your support. As a new community theatre program, our growth depends largely on the patronage of our audience members. Become a T@F member today and your donation will help ensure future productions. Support the arts in your local community! Be one of the "First."

T@F is a non-profit organization sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Somerville. All donations are tax-deductible and held in a fund dedicated to Theatre@First. All contributors receive a membership card and will have their name listed in our programs unless they prefer to remain anonymous. These are the five levels of membership T@F offers:

MEMBER (\$25): 1 free ticket to every production for 1 year, 1 free item at the snack bar when you present your membership card

FRIEND (\$50): 2 free tickets to each production for 1 year, 2 free items at the snack bar when you present your membership card

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