



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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University
of Victoria

GOOD GRIEF! CHARLIE BROWN & FRIENDS COME TO LIFE AT UVIC

Phoenix presents Grammy-nominated Broadway musical over spring break

2012/2013 Season

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN (REVISED)

March 14 – 23, 2013

Based on "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 by Michael Mayer
Originally Produced in New York by Arthur
Whitelaw and Gene Persson

*The Broadway hit follows the antics of the loveable
Peanuts gang as they ponder the meaning of life.*

Directed by Fran Gebhard
Music Direction by Jim Hill
Movement Coach Jacques Lemay
Set Design by Allan Stichbury
Costumes Design by Allyson Leet & Shayna Ward
Lighting Design by Simon Farrow
Stage Manager Sandra Drag

Preshow Lecture: March 15 @ 7pm

*The Director's Series: Join us for our series this year
that puts our directors front and centre talking
about the inspiration for their play.*

* Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Presented by



Piano Provided by **Tom Lee Music**

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Arguably the most influential comic strip in history, Charles Schulz's *Peanuts* has been warming the hearts of millions for decades. Charlie Brown's adorable antics still reach us with reprinted strips and holiday reruns on television, but how does a comic strip rooted in the simplicity of the 1950s apply to audiences today?

From March 14 – 23, 2013, which is spring break for most of Victoria schools, the University of Victoria's Phoenix Theatre presents Clark Gesner's beloved Broadway hit, ***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown***, a musical that brings Charlie Brown and the rest of your favourite *Peanuts* characters to the stage with a Grammy-nominated score. This simple charming play follows our loveable loser through a day pondering the meaning of life and pining over the Little Red-Haired Girl. He finds solace in friendships with Linus, little sister Sally, bossy nemesis Lucy, musical genius Schroeder – and, of course, man's best friend, Snoopy!

Director Fran Gebhard, an acting instructor in the Department of Theatre, feels Charlie Brown continues to resonate with audiences young and old because we can all relate to feeling like the underdog. "*Charlie Brown has already stood the test of time,*" says Gebhard. "*He doesn't need to be changed to be relevant. Everything these kids go through – depression, anxiety, existentialism, bullying – still plague us today, and the Peanuts gang do a beautiful job of exploring how to overcome these problems on their own.*"

Gebhard is taking the show back to its classic roots with both the set and costume designs drawing from the early versions of Schulz's comic strips. Designed by faculty member Allan Stichbury, the set serves as a pseudo two-dimensional playground for the characters to play baseball, fly kites and discuss life. Bright and playful costumes, designed by third-year students Allyson Leet and Shayna Ward, emphasize the kid in Schultz's iconic characters. Fourth-year student Simon Farrow designs the lighting and the Stage Manager is Sandra Drag.

The cast of seven students from the Department of Theatre includes locally known musician Kale Penny (from the band Sunday Buckets) who won last year's Mount Doug Idol and Christie Stewart, who made it to the Top 20 of CBC's national search for Dorothy last fall in *Over the Rainbow*. Under the care of Music Director Jim Hill and Assistant Music Director and pianist Adrian Bronson, this cast will have the whole family singing along to catchy and endearing songs like "My New Philosophy", "Happiness" and "Suppertime" (Yup, that's Snoopy's song!). Previews of the music can be found on iTunes through a link on www.phoenixtheatres.ca. Renowned choreographer Jacques Lemay joins the team as a Movement Coach.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown was originally written as a series of songs in the 1960s by Clark Gesner, who was originally unable to get permission to use the *Peanuts* characters from the United Features Syndicate. Gesner persisted and eventually sent a tape of the songs to Schulz himself, who agreed to have it recorded. It was later developed into a full musical that was mounted off Broadway in 1967, later moving to Broadway in 1971. It was revived in 1999 on Broadway with additional characters, songs and dialogue. Both productions have been much lauded, earning the Theatre World Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical (1967) and a nomination for the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical (1999). Both productions were nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album. Recently, several major Canadian theatre companies have revived this much-loved musical on stages across the country.

Join us on **Friday, March 15 at 7pm** for a **FREE preshow lecture** with director Fran Gebhard as she talks about the making of this production. Call **250-721-8000** for details or visit phoenixtheatres.ca. The performance schedule for ***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*** is as follows:

Public Preview Performances 8pm: March 12 & 13

Evening Performances 8pm: March 14 (Opening Night), 15 (Lecture), 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

Matinee Performances 2pm: Saturday, March 16 & 23

Single Tickets: \$16 Student /\$18 Senior/\$22 Adult/\$24 Weekends @ 8pm (Previews \$7.00, available after 5pm)

Phoenix Box Office Opens: March 5 in person or by calling: **(250) 721-8000**.