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## BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE MAINSTAGE BRINGS AMERICA'S FAVORITE COMIC STRIP TO LIFE IN YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

February 19–March 15, 2015

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

**Berkeley, CA** (January 6, 2015) – **Berkeley Playhouse** at the historic Julia Morgan Theater continues their seventh season with ***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*** directed and choreographed by **Christina Lazo** (*Chicago*, *The Rocky Horror Show* with Altarena Playhouse; *All Shook Up*, *West Side Story* with Tri Valley Repertory Theatre; *A Chorus Line*, *Catch Me If You Can* with Woodminster; and *Bye Bye Birdie* with Contra Costa Musical Theatre). Previews begin February 19 and runs from February 21 to March 15, 2015 at the Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave. in Berkeley. Tickets are now available through the Box Office, call **(510) 845-8542 x351** or visit **berkeleyplayhouse.org**.

For more than 60 years, Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the whole Peanuts gang have been making childhoods just a little more wonderful. The two-time Tony Award-winning musical ***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*** brings the heartfelt comic strip to life with some of the gang's most memorable situations and characters such as the Kite-Eating Tree, the Little Red-Haired Girl, Lucy's psychiatry booth, and Snoopy's battles with the Red Baron.

Lazo's creative team includes Musical Direction **Matt Smart** (*Bye Bye Birdie* and *Tarzan* with Contra Costa Musical Theatre; [title of show] with OMG Productions), Scenic and Lighting Design by **Mark Hueske** (Barry Manilow at the Las Vegas Hilton; Teatro ZinZanni; *State of Grace* - a collaboration with visual artist Anne Patterson at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, *Letter from Birmingham Jail* with Anna Deavere Smith), Costume Design by **Tammy Berlin** (Marin Shakespeare, St. Mary's College, and Bay Area Children's Theatre, Central Works), Sound Design by **Taylor Gonzolez** (Berkeley Playhouse, San Francisco Mime Troupe's Youth Theater Project), and Prop Design by **Debbie Shelley** (Diablo Theatre Company, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Saint Mary's College, Center Stage Theatre Company, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre, and Central Works).

**THE CAST:** The professional cast includes **Ashley Cowl** as Lucy [*Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *A Chorus Line* (Maggie), *Legally Blonde* (Serena), and *CATS* (Bombalurina) with Woodminster Summer Musicals; *Anything Goes* (Hope) with Willows Theatre; *CATS* (Demeter) and *42nd Street* (Phyllis) with Cabrillo Music Theatre]; **Kevin Hammond** as Linus [*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Leaf Coneybear) with Masquers Playhouse, *Barnum* (Tom Thumb) with Contra Costa Civic Theater, *Plaid Tidings* (Sparky) with Douglas Morrisson Theatre, *Oklahoma!* (Will Parker) with Stage 1, *Avenue Q* (Rod), and *All Shook Up* (Dean Hyde) with Tri-Valley Rep Theatre]; **Harmony Livingston** as Sally [*Catch Me*



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*If You Can* at Woodminster Summer Musicals. Off Broadway: *Angelina Ballerina the Musical!*]; **Danny Quezada** as Schroeder [*Mary Poppins* with Berkeley Playhouse; *Carrie the Musical* (Freddy) with Ray of Light Theatre – West Coast Premiere; *La Cage Aux Folles* (Jean Michele), *The Addams Family* with Contra Costa Civic Theatre - Bay Area Premiere; and *Forever Plaid* (Sparky) with Tri-Valley Rep Theatre]; **Alex Rodriguez** as Snoopy [*Mary Poppins* (Bert) with Berkeley Playhouse; *Triassic Park* with Ray of Light Theatre – Theatre Bay Area Award for Best Actor; *Evita* with Broadway by the Bay – Theatre Bay Area Award for Best Actor. National Tour: *Miss Saigon*. Highlights: *Cabaret* (Emcee), *Rent* (Angel), *42nd Street* (Billy Lawlor), *A Chorus Line* (Paul). Films: *Love, Concord, The Stranger in Us, Trainers, A Million Miles Away*, and *The Shed*]; and **Zac Schuman** as Charlie Brown [*Avenue Q* (Brian), *The History Boys* (Timms) with New Conservatory Theatre Center; *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (William Barfee) with Center REP; *Little Me* (Yulnick and Brucey) with 42nd Street Moon; ...and *Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi* (Yankee Pot Roast) with Cutting Ball Theatre; *The Rocky Horror Show* (Eddie and Dr. Scott) with 6th Street Playhouse; and *I Love You Because* (Jeff) with Lucky Penny Productions.

“We are over the moon excited to introduce the amazing characters of Mr. Schulz to the children of Berkeley, as well allow adults to reminisce about their favorite cartoon strip. Our professional multicultural cast will bring Snoopy, Linus, Schroder, Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Sally to life in a way you have never seen before.

Additionally, we are thrilled to partner with Berkeley Humane throughout the run of ***You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown***. Snoopy was rescued from the puppy farm by Charlie Brown and we know that a number of puppies will be saved during the run of the show. We think Charlie Brown, Snoopy and all the Peanuts gang would be proud of that,” said Berkeley Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Daren A.C. Carollo.

## BERKELEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Berkeley Playhouse and Berkeley Humane are teaming up during the run of ***You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown***. In addition to a dog food drive to help Berkeley Humane’s shelter, we will also have four onsite pet adoptions at Berkeley Playhouse, each Saturday from 3:15 – 5:30pm.

“Berkeley Humane is thrilled to establish a new partnership with the Berkeley Playhouse,” said Jeffrey Zerwekh, Executive Director of Berkeley Humane. “Just as Berkeley Playhouse is an integral part of our arts community, Berkeley Humane provides vital community services when it comes to saving the lives of homeless dogs and cats. By teaming up, we are able to reach a much greater audience with the potential to fulfill the missions of both organizations.”



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**ABOUT BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE:** Berkeley Playhouse was founded in 2007 by actor, director, and teacher **Elizabeth McKoy**. In 2014, McKoy and the Board of Directors hired Producing Artistic Director **Daren A.C. Carollo**, who with Managing Director **Lauren Hewitt** continues to develop Berkeley Playhouse into a professional musical theatre providing people of all ages a unique and sophisticated experience. Additionally, Berkeley Playhouse robust School of Musical Theatre offers a range of skill and performance classes for ages 3–17 through several after-school and school break educational programs. In 2009, Berkeley Playhouse made the historic Julia Morgan Theater its permanent home.

**Previews:** Thursday, February 19 at 7pm and Saturday, February 21 at 1pm

**Opens:** Saturday, February 21 at 6pm

**Press:** Saturday, February 21 at 6pm; Sunday, February 22 at 12pm and 5pm

**Closes:** Sunday, March 15 at 5pm

**All performances:** Fridays at 7pm; Saturdays at 1pm and 6pm; Sundays at 12pm and 5pm at Berkeley Playhouse at The Julia Morgan Theater. 2640 College Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704

**TICKETS:** On sale now. For tickets (\$17 for previews, \$25–\$60 for regular performances) or more information, the public may call **(510) 845-8542 x351** or visit [berkeleyplayhouse.org](http://berkeleyplayhouse.org). Group rates available for 10 or more people.

Select “Pay What You Can” nights will be announced where tickets are sold on a sliding scale from \$5-\$20 dollars.

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