



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

February 1, 2024

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* will be Thursday, Feb. 15. Regular evening performances will be Feb. 16-17 and 21-24. Two Sunday matinees will be performed on Feb. 18 and 25.

Show Times: Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:15 p.m.

Season Flex Pass Seat Selection:

Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3 for Flex Pass patrons. Select seats online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to request seats on the phone. Flex Pass patrons may also purchase an additional ticket for every pass they have.

General Public Tickets: General public tickets available beginning 7:00 a.m. **Thursday, Feb. 8.** Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Night tickets \$20. All other performances \$15.

Box Office Phone Calls: Be prepared to leave a message with details about your seat/ticket request including a phone number where you can easily be reached. Volunteers will return calls during variable hours

Atten: Flex Pass Patrons

Your 2024 pass code was included in the email you received when you purchased your Pass. That code is required to select your seats online. If you don't know your code, and it does not appear when you log in for seat selection, a Box Office volunteer can provide it to you on the phone.

Directed by Brandon Bolin
Music Direction by George Mann

Based on the comic strip PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz
Book, Music, & Lyrics by Clark Gesner

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

the Broadway musical



COMIC STRIP CLASSIC COMES TO LIFE IN YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

LINUS: I really don't think you have anything to worry about, Charlie Brown. After all science has shown that a person's character isn't really established until he's at least five years old.
CHARLIE BROWN: But I am five. I'm more than five. LINUS: Oh, well. That's the way it goes.

The beloved "Peanuts" characters Charlie Brown, Sally, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder and Snoopy will take over the stage at Fort Smith Little Theatre February 15 through 25 in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. The musical based on the Charles Schulz comic strip has music and lyrics by Clark Gesner and Andrew Lippa. Brandon Bolin directs and George Mann is the music director.

The stage musical was originally produced off-Broadway in 1967 starring Gary Burghoff and Bob Balaban as Charlie Brown and Linus. In the 1999 revival, with revised script and music, Anthony Rapp and B.D. Wong starred as Charlie Brown and Linus. The show made a star of Kristin Chenoweth as Sally.

Charlie Brown (Wesley Fox) is just a little kid who struggles with the meaning of life, football, homework, crushes, and friendship. He is an eternal optimist despite not quite achieving his goals. His younger sister Sally (Shannon Stoddard) is more confident. Charlie Brown's good friend Linus Van Pelt (Coleman Smith) has a philosophical frame of mind, but

Applause For WACF



We are so excited to have completed our first installation of LED stage lights made possible by the Western Arkansas Community Foundation. Shown here by (left) Gray Ashton, lighting specialist and FSLT volunteer, and Jessica Hayes, WACF Exec. Director, the LED fixtures are more versatile, easier to change color, and cooler to operate. Thank you WACF for your continued support!



Director's Letter



I know I speak for many when I say that the Peanuts comic strip has been a favorite of mine for as long as I can remember. The group's dry humor and innocent philosophizing on life has been charming readers daily since it debuted in 1947. And with this charming musical, you have the chance to experience these characters in a way you never have before. Some of the gang's most iconic motifs, like Charlie Brown's attempts to fly a kite, Lucy's unrequited love for Schroeder, Linus's attachment to

his blanket, and Snoopy's never-ending battle against the Red Baron come to life right before your eyes, both in dialogue and in song. This cast has taken to their roles so well, finding ways to relate to and get into their characters right off the bat. Rehearsals with them and with our crew have been a wonderful way to spend my evenings at the start of this new year, and their hard work and talent will be on full display when opening night comes. So, make plans to join us for this wonderful production that reminds us you can find happiness in the simplest of circumstances!

-Brandon Bolin, Director



BUY NOW

3 Season Packages Available For 2024

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN
THE LOST BOY
LIGHT UP THE SKY
HELLO, DOLLY!
MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS
THE OUTSIDER

Last Chance To Buy A 2024 Season Package!

Opening Night Same Seat Subscriptions (\$100/person) and Wednesday Same Seat Subscriptions (\$80/person) may be purchased through February 2. Flex Passes (\$75/person) are available through February 14. All 3 packages offer preferred seating and plenty of perks! Buy online at fslt.org, call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5), or email fsltseasontickets@gmail.com.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown opens February 15

he needs the constant companionship of his security blanket to function. Linus's sister Lucy Van Pelt (Megan Henley) is bossy, selfish and opinionated and enjoys making life more difficult for Charlie Brown. Lucy has an unrequited crush on Schroeder (Eric Wells) a young Beethoven fanatic who plays his toy piano with great skill, and who would prefer to play baseball to receiving Lucy's affections. The companion to all these children is Snoopy (Jamie Lambdin-Bolin) a dog with a remarkable fantasy life and human qualities.

As the cast of six talented actors explore life's great questions, they are joined by an able crew including Brandon Bolin as director, George Mann as music director, and Sharla Cameron and Tina Dale as co-producers. Shannon Stoddard doubles her role as Sally by also serving as choreographer, while Snoopy actor Jamie Lambdin-Bolin serves as costumer. Audra Sargent serves as stage manager; Gary Cameron is the set builder/designer; Sharla Cameron is responsible for props; and Gray Ashton is the lighting designer. Light and sound operators are Joanne Peterson and Megan Bagley. Backstage crew includes Michael Fox, Tonya McCoy and Elysa Turner.

Wesley Fox is enjoying the process of discovering Charlie Brown: "He's a kid who is trying his hardest to do what's right. As he navigates repeated failures, Charlie never loses his positive outlook, and his generally good attitude endears him to his friends and to the audience as well."

"What can I say about Lucy Van Pelt?" says Megan Henley. "Is she bossy? Yes. Maybe even a little mean sometimes? Sure. But I like to think that underneath it all she's just a big softy with good intentions. I can't help but feel a certain kinship to a little girl who's trying to make her voice be heard in this big, loud world."

In his role as Schroeder, Eric Wells explains: "Being an adult playing children who are children that act like adults has made this an

amazing experience that I can't wait for our audiences to see. And having this chance to play Schroeder is one I'll take with me for the rest of my life."

"Sally Brown has been a dream role of mine for years," says Shannon Stoddard. "I'd listen to the soundtrack while driving back and forth to college and have always wanted to be a part of this show! Sally is sassy, dramatic, uninhibited and not afraid to speak her mind...honestly, I wish I was more like her! Whereas Charlie Brown is the ultimate optimist, Sally is the complete opposite and looks at everything with such pragmatism. Through her I get to show all the frustration little kids experience and turn it around into creating her own rules to live by (as so many kids do)."

Coleman Smith is playing his largest role to date: "Seeing the Peanuts comic strip in color in the Sunday paper was always exciting to me. I especially love Linus as a character because he is very simple and seems to know so much and so little at the same time. It's interesting to see him interact with others in the Peanuts gang who either don't care or don't understand what he's saying."

In keeping with Snoopy's big personality but lack of vocabulary, Jamie Lamdin-Bolin simply says "Woof!"

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown opens Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. with additional evening performance Feb. 16-17 and 21-24. There will be two Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Feb. 18 and 25. Opening Night tickets are \$20. All other performances are \$15. Seat selection for Flex Pass Patrons begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday Feb. 3. General public ticketing begins 7:00 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8. Purchase tickets/select seats online at fslt.org or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase through a box office volunteer.

Good Grief! Don't miss this family-friendly, uplifting musical brought to you by Charlie and the gang.

2023 Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Membership meeting was held Nov. 20, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. Five new Board members were elected to three-year terms: Sherry Hester, Coleman Smith, Monica Longoria, Mary Beth McAlvain, and Megan Bagley. Three members-at-large were elected to a one-year term on the nominating committee: Rikkee Workman-Black, Joanne Peterson, and Audra Sargent.

The newly elected Board then met to select officers for the coming year (Tina Dale, President; Vice President, Melissa Vitale; Treasurer, Shannon Stoddard; Eric Wells, Secretary) and elect Barbara Richardson and Steve Dwiggins to fill additional Board positions.

Sip Sip Hooray!

Oh the excitement of Opening Night! Courtesy of **Sodie's Wine and Spirits**, quality wine and champagne is served pre-show. At intermission, a special dessert is served along with brew from **Fort Smith Coffee**. By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass and Wednesday Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for a small fee.

Seating Late Arrivals

To minimize disruption for patrons and actors, those arriving after curtain time will be seated only at a suitable break in the performance. It is also possible that you may be placed in a more accessible seat then moved to your purchased seat at intermission. Seating after a performance has begun is subject to the discretion of FSLT.

TWO MATINEES!

Please note that TWO Sunday matinees (Feb 18 and 25) will be performed for *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*.



Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913
www.fs.lt.org

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2024 FSLT Board of Directors

Tina Dale, President
Melissa Vitale, Vice President
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Sherry Hester
Monica Longoria
Ashleigh Mathews
Mary Beth McAlvain
Barbara Richardson
Coleman Smith
Micki Voelkel



From the Top...

For the last 12 years, FSLT has pushed me to the edge. I mean that in the best possible way. Since my first time on stage, in the chorus of *The Sound of Music*, this theatre has afforded me countless opportunities to step out of my comfort zone. I dove into the deep end of involvement after being in *Other People's Money*. You can't spend weeks in rehearsal with Rham Cunningham (Director) and Carole Rogers (actress extraordinaire), without resisting the pull. Their enthusiasm and love for FSLT was contagious.

Through the years, I've enjoyed costuming, props, publicity, producing, acting, and directing. I do, however, have other frontiers to tackle. One is set construction, although that looks doubtful as I am forbidden by fellow volunteers from using power tools. The second is lights and sound; like many jobs at FSLT, I admire what it brings to any production, but I don't have a clue how it works. The third is leadership – and I'm honored now to serve as Board President. It's way out of my comfort zone – but like all roles at FSLT, there's a team of good people who always have your back.

I want to thank the casts and crews of *A Christmas Carol* and *Wacky Tacky Christmas Spectacular* for ending Season 2023 with a bang. And now, I know we are all looking forward to the winter musical, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. What a great way to start the year – with laughter and wisdom brought to us by Charlie and the gang. And away we go!

- Tina Dale, President



AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!

Auditions for *The Lost Boy*, directed by Joanne Peterson, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26. Callbacks will be Tuesday, Feb. 27. The cast calls for 4+ males and 3+ females approximately 13-60+ years of age. Production dates are April 4-13. This beautiful story of magic and mystery is the fictionalized account of the birth of Peter Pan, also known as The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up. Visit fs.lt.org for role descriptions and complete details.



Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before February 7.