



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley  
presents a musical for audiences of all ages

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN,  
CHARLIE BROWN



Actors Ensemble Celebrates

**ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY** has been around the block (and just around the corner from you) since 1957, making us the longest running stage company in Berkeley. We began with seven UC Berkeley alumni from the World War II era. Their love of acting gave birth to a tradition that began with four plays in 1957, which were initially performed in a neighbor's basement. In 1965, AE began performing at the Live Oak Theatre — and has ever since.

Our mission is to enrich, entertain and improve our community through fascinating theatrical works. With social consciousness and an ensemble approach, we provide area residents with opportunities to attend, participate in and be helped through theatre. Our shows will be affordable, our opportunities enjoyable, and our community impact felt year-round.

As Berkeley's only true community theatre company, we depend on our volunteers to bring their energy and creative vision to each play we produce.

If you would like to volunteer in our theatre, give us a call or send us an email! We'd love for you to play a part in our next show!

**CONTACT INFO**

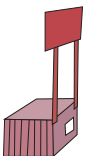
Email: [info@aeofberkeley.org](mailto:info@aeofberkeley.org)

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Alan Barken, Eric Carlson, David Cohen, Maureen Coyne, Jose Garcia, Bob Gudmundsson, Margaret Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann, Bill Martinelli, Roger Schrag, Jerome Solberg, Stan Spenger, Kim Stewart



# YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Directed by Gregg Klein

*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*



## CAST

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Linus Van Pelt . . . . . | Ted V. Bigornia    |
| Snoopy . . . . .         | David Irving       |
| Charlie Brown . . . . .  | Kyle Johnson       |
| Sally Brown . . . . .    | Shay Oglesby-Smith |
| Lucy Van Pelt . . . . .  | Michelle Pond      |
| Schroeder . . . . .      | Davern Wright      |

## CREW

|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Director . . . . .                 | Gregg Klein                     |
| Music Director . . . . .           | Patricia King                   |
| Choreography . . . . .             | Kris Bell                       |
| Lighting Design . . . . .          | Renee Echavez, Deborah Sandmann |
| Sound Design . . . . .             | Marti Baer, Joe Ponder          |
| Set Design . . . . .               | David Bradley                   |
| Stage Manager . . . . .            | Bob Gudmundsson                 |
| Producer . . . . .                 | Roger Schrag                    |
| Costume Design . . . . .           | Dianne Beaulieu-Arms            |
| Assistant Costume Design . . . . . | Elizabeth Van Buren             |
| Light/Sound Technicians . . . . .  | Martha Luehrmann, John Wilson   |
| Publicity . . . . .                | Eric Carlson                    |
| Graphic Design . . . . .           | Shu Ping Guan                   |

**Time:** Present Day

**Setting:** A typical day in the life of Charlie Brown

This musical production is presented in two acts, and includes one 15 minute intermission.

Produced by arrangement with, and the music and dialogue material furnished by  
Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I have always loved Charlie Brown, Lucy, Snoopy and the rest of the gang. As a kid, I would spend hours reading the paperback collections of “Peanuts” comics that my Mom would get me for my birthday each year. As I grew older, I continued to read the strip in the daily paper. I was always amused and impressed at how skillfully Charles M. Schulz could incorporate humor, hope, wisdom, and an adult sensibility to a cartoon about a group of children. The integrity of the material has never wavered. It remains a timeless and loving look at the human condition in its simplest form.

I have been acting and appearing on stage since the age of six. After more than 60 amateur and professional theatrical productions, I decided I wanted to try my hand at directing (isn't that what all actors eventually say?). In 2004, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* became the second show I ever directed, and it was a truly joyous experience! The cast and crew of that production became a family.

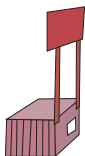
To this day, many of my closest and most trusted friends and theatre collaborators are people I met while working on that show. That we all had such a good time and became such great friends isn't that surprising. Just look at the source material -- it's all in there.

When Kris Bell (Choreographer) and Pat King (Musical Director) contacted me to ask if I had any interest in working with them on a new production, I said yes immediately. For me, this is a gem of a show. It is suitable for the entire family, yet it offers something different to each person who sees it. For the younger audience, it is a lively and amusing tale of the day to day foibles of our hero, our “every man”, Charlie Brown. For the more “seasoned” audience, it is an uncomplicated look at friendship, loyalty and love told from the perspective of children, yet not childishly told.

Because of its origin as a comic strip, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* has come to be regarded by some as a “kids show”. Most productions are aimed at or performed by younger actors and high school drama departments. We believe that there is much more to it, just as there was so much more to the “Peanuts” strip. We see the value and universal appeal in the material and appreciate the opportunity to present our vision for Actors Ensemble.

This show is our gift to you, the audience; we hope it is one that speaks to the hearts and minds of everyone who sees it. We believe this is the gift that Charles Schulz gave to the world when he created “Peanuts”. Further, since this production honors Ralph Miller, a man who lovingly gave the gift of his time and talents to Actors Ensemble for many wonderful years, this seems a fitting approach.

ENJOY!



## CAST AND CREW

**TED V. BIGORNIA** (Linus Van Pelt) is very happy to be appearing on the Actors Ensemble stage for the first time. Recent Bay Area appearances include roles in productions of *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *The Petrified Forest*. Ted lives in Vallejo and works as a commercial escrow officer in Walnut Creek. Ted would like to dedicate his performance to the memory of his dog, Jake. "I miss you, Baby Jakes!"



**DAVID IRVING** (Snoopy) is excited to return to Actors Ensemble after playing Paul in *Barefoot in the Park* last year. He is also thrilled to return to the Tony-winning role of Snoopy, again directed by Gregg Klein. (He didn't win the Tony, though. Roger Bart did.) Other Tony-winning shows include *Chicago* (Amos Hart), *Cabaret* (Cliff Bradshaw), *City of Angels* (Stine) and *Assassins* (Czolgosz). (Note that although David was in those Tony-winning productions, his productions weren't eligible to be nominated.)

**KYLE JOHNSON** (Charlie Brown) is excited to be working with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. Kyle is a native of Paul, Idaho and attended Brigham Young University studying musical dance theatre. Kyle has lived in San Francisco for the last nine years and has been working with this wonderful cast and crew, on and off, for the last five years. Some of Kyle's past roles include Robert in *Company*, Malcolm in *The Full Monty*, and Alan Squire in *The Petrified Forest*, all at Masquers Playhouse. Kyle sends his undying love and thanks to his husband, David.



**SHAY OGLESBY-SMITH** (Sally Brown) is over the moon about playing Sally in this production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Some other shows include *Ruthless*, *The Musical* (Judy/Ginger), *Archie & Mehitabel* (Mehitabel) and *The Threepenny Opera* (Polly). By day Shay is an "at home mom" (which is code for "I drive a lot"), has three fantastic kids and a husband who continues to delight and fascinate her. Enjoy the show!

**MICHELLE POND** (Lucy Van Pelt) is thrilled to be making her first appearance with Actors Ensemble! This July marks Michelle's tenth year in the Bay Area, and she has been in nearly 20 East Bay theatre productions in that time. Some of her favorite roles include Norma in *Victor/Victoria*, Bella in *Angel Street*, and, of course, Lucy in this production. Michelle lives in Oakland with a very loved and pampered kitty cat.



## Actors Ensemble Celebrates

**DAVERN WRIGHT** (Schroeder), a Bay Area native, is enjoying his first year in its theatre scene, having last performed a variety of roles in Ragged Wing Ensemble's production of *The History of the Devil*. Davern also wrote and directed his first full-length play/film, *Inside*, and wrote a one-act play produced by the Berkshire Fringe Festival in 2007. He graduated from Williams College and will attend the Film Production MFA program at USC starting this fall.



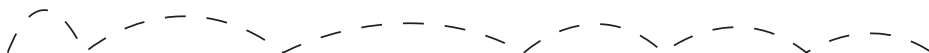
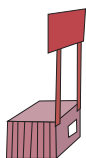
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**GREGG KLEIN** (Director) After appearing in more than 60 plays and musicals since age six, Gregg began his directing career in 2004. This production marks his fourth collaboration with Pat King and Kris Bell, having previously partnered on productions of *BABY* for Pittsburg Community Theatre, and both *Company* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* for Masquers Playhouse. When not "treading the boards" (or suggesting just how others should tread them), he enjoys reading, film, board games, and spending time with friends.

**PATRICIA KING** (Music Director) is delighted to return to Actors Ensemble as she had her first West Coast theater experience here maaaaaany years ago. She has since music directed and played all over the Bay Area, but fondly remembers her time at AE and sitting on the Board with the unforgettable Ralph Miller. Pat is thrilled to be remounting this very sweet show with these very special people in his honor. She's a happy woman and hopes you enjoy your evening.

**KRIS BELL** (Choreography) Back at Actors Ensemble after a 13 year break, Kris is ecstatic to be part of a musical honoring the memory of Ralph Miller. Kris' 20 years with AE began in 1976 when she danced in *Hay Fever*. The team of Kris Bell and Pat King originated right here at Live Oak Theatre with AE's production of *Mack and Mabel* in 1988. In her spare time, Kris choreographs tree guys at The Professional Tree Care Co. and loves her four-legged children, Luke and Molly.

**DEBORAH SANDMANN** (Lighting Design) This is Debbi's first show with Actors Ensemble. She is happy to have the chance to work with her good friend Renee because she is always fun to work with. Debbi has designed lights for several East Bay theatres. Recent shows include *Angel Street* and *Arsenic and Old Lace* for Masquers Playhouse and *Quilters* for Pittsburg Community Theatre. When not busy doing theatre, Debbi enjoys bowling, golf and going to 49ers games with her friends.



**DIANNE BEAULIEU-ARMS** (Costume Design) has been designing costumes for local theatre companies since the late 1990s and is a four time Shellie Award recipient. Dianne is also the Executive Director of Poison Apple Productions, a childrens' theatre company in Martinez that produces original works for (and by) younger actors, playwrights and directors. When not busy with theatre, Dianne spends time with her family, which includes husband Bruce, daughter Noelle and son Jay.

**ELIZABETH VAN BUREN** (Assistant Costume Design) is delighted to join the Actors Ensemble team for this production. Growing up in New York City, Elizabeth's favorite Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloon has always been Snoopy. Elizabeth has previously done local costume work with the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Shotgun Players and Woman's WILL. She has a B.A. in History and Environmental Studies from Carleton College, but has always loved to design (and wear) costumes.

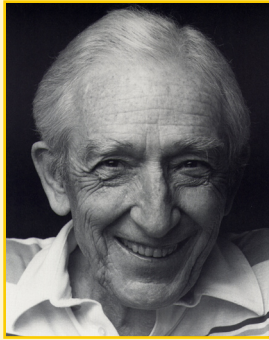
**ROGER SCHRAG** (Producer) is having a great time working with the cast and crew of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Previous production work includes Eugene Ionesco's *Exit the King*. Although not yet seen on stage, Roger maintains the Actors Ensemble website and mailing lists. When not helping out at the theatre, he likes to hike, swim, travel, and play Go. Roger thanks his wonderful wife Lisa for all of her support and patience.

## THANKS



Masquers Playhouse  
The Beat, Berkeley Performing Arts  
Robert Love  
Jo Lusk  
Margaret Gudmundsson





This production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* is dedicated to the memory of Ralph Miller, long time member of Actors Ensemble and guiding light of the Board of Trustees. Ralph did not begin his theatrical endeavors until he was in his forties but once started embraced the activities with enthusiasm. Ralph acted as mentor to many young actors coming through the community theatre scene whether they hoped to move on to professional work or just enjoyed camaraderie engendered by creating the production of a play to present to an audience.

WE MISS YOU RALPH. BE AT PEACE.