

Manitoba Theatre for Young Reople A CHARLIE BROWN DOUBLE BILL



ТНЕ LION ${}_{\rm THE}WITCH_{\rm and the}$ WARDROBE

Jan. 26-Feb. 4

An MTYP Production BY C.S. Lewis ADAPTED BY le Clanche du Rand

C.S. Lewis' timeless story from his Chronicles of Narnia series is one of the most beloved classics of all time. When Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie arrive at the English countryside during the Second World War, they discover an enchanted wardrobe that spirits them away to the land of Narnia. There they find talking animals, mythical creatures, grand adventure, and a great quest awaiting them.

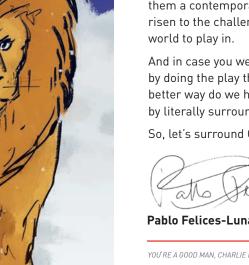
"(a) story of CURIOUSITY, **IMAGINATION and LOYALTY.**"

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NEXT

Ages





A DIFFERENT WAY OF EXPERIENCING **CHARLIE BROWN**

One of the questions we asked ourselves as we began this process was "How do we bring Charlie into the contemporary world without losing the world that Charles M. Schulz created?"

Our first answer was to bring two different stories together. Our community is diversifying every day, and we felt we could address some of the questions that arise with that change by combining parts of You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown with A Charlie Brown Christmas. I hope this story makes everyone feel welcome into our theatre, whether you have followed the Peanuts gang your whole life or if you are coming into contact with them for the first time.

The second was to honour the iconic Peanuts elements in the show while giving them a contemporary look, sound and feel. Our design and production team has risen to the challenge of staging this play in the round, and given us a beautiful

And in case you were wondering "Why would you make it harder on yourselves by doing the play this way", my answer is: (a) It's more fun that way, and (b) what better way do we have to tell a friend who is struggling that we are with him than by literally surrounding him with people who love him?

So, let's surround Charlie and enjoy the journey towards the joy of the holidays.



Pablo Felices-Luna MTYP ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

YOU' RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN AND A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS



Great-West Life ASSURANCE G COMPAN



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What would you do...



A CHARLIE BROWN DOUBLE BILL

An MTYP Production

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

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

BY Charles M. Schulz

BASED ON THE TELEVISION SPECIAL BY **Bill Melendez** and **Lee Mendelson**

STAGE ADAPTATION BY Eric Schaeffer

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH Arthur Whitelaw and Ruby Persson

A Charlie Brown Christmas is presented by Arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC. 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022

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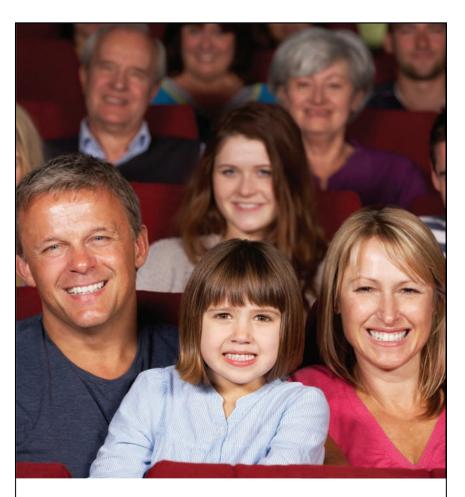
THE CAST

CHARLIE BROWN Peter Fernandes LINUS VAN PELT Nelson Bettencourt LUCY VAN PELT Jillian Willems SALLY BROWN Julie Lumsden SNOOPY Ari Weinberg SCHROEDER | PIANO Paul De Gurse PIG PEN | PERCUSSIONIST Ryan Voth FRIEDA | BASS | TROMBONE Marie-Josee Dandeneau

THE CREW

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SPECIAL THANKS: IATSE Local 63, Marshall Fabrics, Rainbow Stage, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, QOne



Proudly supporting Manitoba Theatre for Young People's production of *A Charlie Brown Double Bill*



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™



Charlie Brown PETER FERNANDES • Peter couldn't be happier returning to MTYP and getting to play one of his dream roles in *A Charlie Brown Double Bill.* He is a Toronto based performer and graduate of the Soulpepper Academy and the University of Alberta's BFA Acting Program. Selected credits include: *Onegin* (Musical Stage Company/National Arts Centre), *King Lear*,

Twelfth Night (Canadian Stage - Shakespeare in High Park), Peter and the Starcatcher (Citadel Theatre), Passing Strange (Obsidian/The Musical Stage Company), Alligator Pie (Western Canada Tour), Father Comes Home From The Wars parts I, II, III, (Dora Award - Outstanding Production), Incident at Vichy (Dora Award-Outstanding Performance, Ensemble), The Just, Marat/Sade, The Dybbuk, Spoon River, Tartuffe, Idiot's Delight, The Crucible (Soulpepper), Are We There Yet? (Concrete), Work Plays (AWHC), Evil Dead: The Musical (Ground Zero, Hit & Myth), The Last Tree of Rapa Nui (MTYP), Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing (Freewill Shakespeare).

Upcoming: *Jerusalem*, starring Kim Coates (The Company Theatre/Outside the March), *Love and Information* (Canadian Stage).



Linus Van Pelt NELSON BETTENCOURT • Nelson is excited to be making his performance with MTYP. Originally born in Winnipeg, Nelson received his Bachelors of Music from the University of Manitoba and Masters of Fine Arts from The Boston Conservatory. He recently returned to Winnipeg after studying and working abroad in the US and Europe for several years. He

is an active member of the Winnipeg arts community both as a performer and an educator, and wants to thank his family, friends and the Winnipeg arts community for creating an amazing, supportive environment. This spring Nelson can be seen in the WSO/Rainbow Stage production of *A Chorus Line* and after will be traveling to Edmonton to work on Mayfield Theatres' production of *All Shook Up*.

Select credits: *South Pacific* /Harbison (WSO/Rainbow Stage), *Les Misérables/* Lesgles (Rainbow Stage), *Into the Woods/*Jack (District Theatre Collective), *Rent/* Mark (TBZ Production/Saskatchewan Express), *The Velveteen Rabbit/*Boy (Little Opera Company), *Spring Awakening/*Ernst & Fresher, *The Musical*/Basil Wood (Winnipeg Studio Theatre), *Zanna Don't* /Zanna (Stage 16), *Title of Show/*Jeff (Pocket Frock Production).



Welcome to MTYP's A Charlie Brown Double Bill.

We'd love to know what you think of today's performance and of MTYP. Take a minute to fill out the survey and we'll enter you to **WIN A FREE** subscription to MTYP's 2018/19 season. Thanks!

www.surveymonkey.com/r/MTYP_CharlieBrown



Lucy Van Pelt JILLIAN WILLEMS • Jillian is thrilled to be making her MTYP debut as everyone's favourite know-it-all! Select performance credits include: Nellie in *South Pacific* (WSO/ Rainbow Stage); *The Stock* (Art Launch); *Corner Of* (Little Sparrow); *Heathers* (Winnipeg Studio Theatre); *Follies* (Dry Cold); *Aida* (Edmonton Opera); *Dogfight* (Three Form Theatre); *Dora the*

Explorer (Koba); *Self(ish)* and *Letters & Words* (Synaethesis Dance Theatre).

Jillian is also a Winnipeg Theatre Award nominated choreographer. Select credits include: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Uniform Theatre); *American Idiot* (Winnipeg Studio Theatre); *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (District Theatre Collective); *Zanna, Don't!* (Stage16); *Downtown Abbey Road* (Celebrations); *Assassins* (Loose Ends).

As Charles M. Schulz once wrote, "What's the good of living if you don't try a few things?" So Jillian is trying skating. Sending love to her family, her David, and her Steph. Happy holidays!



Sally Brown JULIE LUMSDEN • Selected credits include: The Flats (Prairie Theatre Exchange), Les Flats (Théâtre Cercle Molière), Sarah Ballenden (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), Heathers: The Musical, Spring Awakening (Winnipeg Studio Theatre), James and the Giant Peach (Manitoba Theatre for Young People), Les Miserables, The Little Mermaid (Rainbow

Stage), *The Addams' Family Musical, Little Women* (Dry Cold Productions) *Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth* (Magnus Theatre). Julie holds a Bachelor of Music Performance Degree from the Desautels Faculty of Music at The University of Manitoba.



Snoopy ARI WEINBERG • Ari is the Artistic Director of Winnipeg Jewish Theatre and is elated to be making his MTYP debut! Directing: *Tribes, Another Way Home, The Whipping Man, Stars of David, Shiksa* (WJT); *Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Knavish Hedgehogs, Winnipeg Fringe); *Godspell* (Theatre Sheridan) *Selected Acting: South Pacific* (Rainbow Stage/WSO),

Romeo and Juliet (RMTC); Peter Pan (Stratford Festival); Hana's Suitcase (Magnus Theatre); Merry Wives of Windsor, Man of La Mancha (Theatre By the Bay); Oliver!, Swing!, The Mousetrap (Drayton Entertainment); Anne of Green Gables (Globe Theatre); ...Shakespeare Abridged (Sudbury Theatre Centre). Ari is currently on faculty at Sheridan College, his alma mater, as Internship Advisor. Up next, Ari will be joining the U of W's theatre faculty to teach scene study, direct Frankenstein, and appear in WJT and Dry Cold's co-production of Falsettos. Thanks to Pablo for this joyous opportunity. Happy Holidays!



Music Director/Piano/Schroeder PAUL DE GURSE • Paul is a Winnipeg based music director, pianist and composer. This is his first appearance at MTYP. Select other credits: *Little Shop of Horrors, Sister Act* (Rainbow Stage), *Beauty and the Beast* (Neptune Theatre, Merritt award nomination for Outstanding Music Direction), additional music direction with Drayton

Entertainment, Winnipeg Studio Theatre and Toronto's Musical Stage Company. As a sound designer, Paul recently won a Winnipeg Theatre Award as one third of the design team for *The Whipping Man* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre). This show and all future ones are dedicated to Tom.



Percussionist/Pig Pen RYAN VOTH • Ryan Voth is a drummer and actor based in Winnipeg. He has recorded and toured with some of Canada's most notable artists including Fred Penner, Del Barber, and the Bros. Landreth. Ryan was the recipient of a Juno award for his work on The Bros. Landreth debut album 'Let it Lie.' He has worked in musical theatre at both Rainbow

Stage and the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, and is excited to make his first appearance at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People!

Past theatre credits include *The Buddy Holly Story*/Buddy (Rainbow Stage) and *The Million Dollar Quartet* (RMTC).



Bassist & Trombone/Frieda MJ DANDENEAU • MJ

Dandeneau, of Ojibwa/Métis ancestry born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in a French-speaking family. Over the past 13 years, MJ has created a multi-faceted and diverse musical career that includes Professional Touring, Musical Broadway, Studio Bassist, Tour Management, Booking Agent and Producer. Her tours and studio

work have literally taken her all over the globe and nationally recognized with awards including a couple of Canadian JUNO, WCMA-Award & CFM-Award. Her unique style of bass playing and versatility have given her the opportunity to toured and play with international musicians such as Buffy Saint-Marie, The Violent Femme, Xavier Rudd, The Good Lovelies, Pete Murray, Leela Gilday, Don Amero, Sierra Noble, Rose Cousins, just to name a few.

MJ made her theatre debut in MTC's production of the musical *Bitter Girls* and is overjoyed to be part of this musical playing Frieda! Thanks to Paul for his magical direction. Joyeux Noël!

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"If I were given the opportunity to present a gift to the next generation, it would be the ability for each individual to learn to laugh at himself."— Charles M. Schulz

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Director PABLO FELICES-LUNA • Pablo Felices-Luna has been the Artistic Director of Manitoba Theatre for Young People since November of 2014. Since then, he has directed *Peg and the Yeti*, *Dib and Dob and the Journey Home* and *A Charlie Brown Double Bill* for MTYP. Prior to coming to Winnipeg, Pablo was the Artistic Director of Carousel Players, a Theatre for Young Audiences

company operating out of St. Catharines, Ontario, for eight years. In that time, he directed 15 productions and worked with nine different playwrights to premiere eight new plays for young audiences. Pablo would like to thank Carrie for making it all possible and everyone who worked on Charlie Brown for their care, dedication and bravery.



Assistant Director KATIE GERMAN • Katie German is a Winnipeg based performer, director and educator. She received her training in Musical Theatre Performance at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, studied classical voice through the University of Manitoba and theatre through the University of Winnipeg. Katie is the owner and director of Junior Musical

Theatre Company (JMTC) and has taught Musical Theatre and Voice at Balmoral Hall School, Grant Park High School, The Rady Jewish Community Centre, and The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton and St. Albert Children's Theatre. Katie is currently working as the Artistic Associate at Manitoba Theatre for Young People, directing the upcoming Canadian premiere of *Tuck Everlasting* with JMTC, and loving every minute in the rehearsal hall as the Assistant Director of *A Charlie Brown Double Bill* with MTYP.



Set, Props and Costume Designer GILLIAN GALLOW •

Gillian is a set and costume designer and some of her credits include: *Christmas Carol* (set), *Million Dollar Quartet, Hand to God* with RMTC; *Louis Riel* (costumes, COC); *An Octoroon* (Shaw), *The Physicists, The Three Musketeers* (costumes), *Hirsch* (set/ costumes) (Stratford); *King Lear, Stuff Happens* (set/costumes,

NAC); Mary Poppins (costumes, Citadel/TC); Incident at Vichy, The Testament of Mary, Awake and Sing! (costumes, Soulpepper); Night, The Road to Paradise (set/costumes, Human Cargo); Appetite (set/costumes, Volcano/TPM); The Mill (set, Theatrefront). Gillian studied at York University and is the recipient of three Dora Mavor Moore awards. Upcoming she is designing with Soulpepper, Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival and Canadian Opera Company.

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"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone."
— Charles M. Schulz

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BIOS • CAST AND CREW



Design Assistant ERIC DIZON • *A Charlie Brown Double Bill* is Eric's first engagement with MTYP. His other credits include *A Christmas Carol, Hand to God, Million Dollar Quartet,* and *Sarah Ballenden* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre). Eric has trained at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, taken Masterclasses from the National Theatre School of Canada, has a diploma

(honours) in Communication Design from Red River College, and studied Industrial Design at Mapúa University in Manila. Many thanks to the fabulous Gillian Gallow and the incredible team of MTYP. Eric is a multidisciplinary designer with a focus in performing arts. www.ericdizon.design



Lighting Designer HUGH CONACHER • Hugh Conacher is a lighting and multi-media designer, and a photographer. He has collaborated with choreographers, directors, visual artists, and dance and theatre companies throughout Canada and around the world, in venues large and small. He has designed about 40 shows for MTYP since 1983 including most recently,

lighting and video for *Jabber* as well as lighting for *Peter Pan*. Hugh enjoys working beyond the constraints of traditional lighting design using various forms of interactive media, video and photography. His multi-disciplinary process has grown from many years of experience experimenting with light, and expanding those experiments to include new possibilities across artistic mediums, embracing new technologies, and culminating in the production of cutting edge new work. His photographic work resides in private collections and has been published worldwide. Hugh has been a member of the Associated Designers of Canada since 1982 and is a member of l'Association des professionnels des arts de la scène du Québec. www.pellucid.me

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If you love what you see, tell your friends!

While you are not allowed to take photos during the productions, we really do want you to share your MTYP experiences online.



#charliebrownMTYP
#peanuts



Choreographer SARA TOPHAM • Sara is delighted to be making her MTYP debut and particularly to be in a rehearsal hall with Pablo again, for the first time since they were both in theatre school! Credits as a choreographer include: *Me & My Girl, The Pajama Game, Hello Dolly, Cinderella* (all in Victoria BC), *It's a Wonderful Life* (The Grand Theatre), *As You Like It* (Two River

Theatre), and *An Ideal Husband* (Stratford Festival), as well as holding the position of Movement Director for the Classical Studio Acting Program at New York University where she has worked on *Richard II, Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo & Juliet* and *As You Like It.* Favourite roles as an actor include: Saint Joan at The Shaw Festival, Juliet, Rosalind and many others over 13 seasons at The Stratford Festival, *The Importance of Being Earnest* on Broadway, the UK premieres of *Intimate Apparel* and *Love Me Do* in London, as well as many other shows across Canada and the US. As a dancer she trained with Sheila Mackinnon of The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and so has always wanted to come to Winnipeg to dance – what a delight to finally do it with such a wonderful company!



Stage Manager ALI FULMYK • Happiness is... working at MTYP for the first time with the incredible cast and crew of Charlie Brown! Select credits include: *Tribes, Another Way Home* (WJT); *Mamma Mia!, Little Shop of Horrors, Shrek: The Musical, Sister Act, The Little Mermaid, The Producers, Mary Poppins* (Rainbow Stage); *Sister Act* (Drayton Entertainment), *Kill Me Now, The Woman in*

Black, Private Lives, Jane Eyre, Other People's Money (RMTC); Seminar (RMTC/Mirvish); Fidelio, La Bohème, Don Pasquale, Of Mice and Men (Manitoba Opera); Mission: Munschpossible (PTE); American Idiot: The Musical (WST). Much love to my Mom and Dad, and my partner Paul - back off Lucy, he's MINE!



Apprentice Stage Manager ZOE LECLERC-KENNEDY • Zoë is excited to be working with MTYP for the first time! She is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg with an honours degree in Theatre Production and Stage Management. Recent credits include: Apprentice Stage Manager: *Shakespeare in Love, Sarah Ballenden, Bittergirl the Musical* (RMTC), *Falstaff* (MB Opera), Stage

Manager: Inertia (Happy/Accidents), Bake Off 2016 & 17 (Sarasvàti), Vinegar Tom (U of W). Running Crew: My Name is Asher Lev (RMTC). Props: Two Indians, The Seduction Theory (Sarasavàti), Apprentice Props Builder: Black Coffee, Hand to God (RMTC).

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CHARLIE BROWN: Behind the Magic

Almost everyone has memories from their childhood of Charlie Brown. We remember the whole family gathering around the TV to watch the latest Charlie Brown special. Or how much we laughed when Lucy yanked the football away for the umpteenth time. We asked four of the artists involved in the show to share some of their memories.







Q What was your first contact with Charlie Brown? Did you watch it on TV or read the comics?

A Sara Topham We had family friends with kids who were six or seven years older than me and my siblings and they used to give us boxes of books. Lots of cartoon books too, including Charlie Brown. My brother and I used to stack them up and work our way through the piles while we munched on crackers and peanut butter.

A Gillian Gallow I know it was on TV at Christmas time and as a young kid I remember my older brother watching it. **Q** Did your family watch it together when you were a child? What are your strongest memories?

A Sara Topham My parents are British — so we didn't watch a lot of those traditional North American things at home. I'm pretty sure I first watched Charlie Brown at school just before Christmas break — it was a rainy afternoon in Victoria, BC and the teacher just wanted to give us a treat during the last couple days of school. And then I think I made my parents scour the TV guide to find when it would play on CBC so I could show it to them!

A Katie German My family has a very large list of movies we have to watch over the holidays. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* is right up at the top. As little kids, my sister and I would dance around the living room doing all the iconic character dances. Now that I am a mama, my son, husband and I watch the movie every year and I am proud to say that both my husband and my 2 and half year old have their very own Charlie Brown dances.

Q Can you talk a bit about the concept of combining two stories into one show and the challenge of working in-the-round?

A Pablo Felices-Luna I am very excited by the challenge of bringing two stories together to build one full, continuous story. It's a real exercise in editing and in dramatic storytelling. I love that we can build meaning out of these different chapters in the life of Charlie Brown and his friends. I also love working in alternate configurations like theatre-in-the-round because they force you to think of different solutions to the challenges you find in any play. For instance, there is a number in You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown called "The Kite"; if we were doing this in the traditional end stage, we would know exactly how to do it. Once you move into the round, you have to think about it differently since the kite in question will be visible to the audience. Having the audience seated all around the stage creates great intimacy too; they are so close to you that you cannot pretend they are just passive spectators of the show (nor should they be!).



FAST FACTS

Charles Monroe Schulz was an American cartoonist who is regarded as one of the most influential cartoonists of all time.

Schulz grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, which may account for his love of skating and all things winter.

At its height, Peanuts was published in 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries, in 21 languages.

Over 50 years, Schulz drew nearly 18,000 cartoon strips.

During the life of his strip, Schulz took only one vacation, a fiveweek break in late 1997 to celebrate turning 75, (Reruns of the strip ran during his vacation, the only time reruns occurred while Schulz was alive.)

The first animated TV special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, aired in December 1965 and won an Emmy Award.



CONTINUED

A Sara Topham For me, everything starts with the music, so I listen, and listen, and listen to it and let pictures start to form in my imagination. And then eventually I have to get those picture out of my head and fill them with actual dance steps instead of imaginary ones and give them to the actors. Dancing in the round does present some challenges — you have to make sure everyone in the audience gets to see the whole story — so the 360 nature of the space is always at the front of my mind. But honestly, when I saw Gillian's set designs I cried. She's just captured the heart of the piece and made such a beautiful playground — I can't wait to start playing in it!

A Gillian Gallow As a comic the visual style of Charlie Brown is very two dimensional so putting it in the round meant we had to break free of any sort of illustrated style with the props or scenery pieces. They have to be complete on all sides for every audience member to enjoy the same picture.

Q What do you think accounts for the long lasting nature of people's love affair with these characters?

A Pablo Felices-Luna The Peanuts stories are coming back into our consciousness so they are not as foreign to young children as they might have been five years ago. There's so much to love about this piece: the enduring quality of those characters, the sweetness and hilarity of their interactions, the sheer goofiness of doing a musical in the round, the beauty of snow... I could go on forever. I also love taking an iconic story and reframing it for kids and families in 2017.

A Sara Topham I think people love these characters because we see ourselves in them. Aren't we all just big kids? I quite often feel like the kids feel in the show, frustrated, or sad, or mad, or filled with joy — the only difference is I express those feelings differently now than I did then . . . most of the time!!!

A Gillian Gallow I enjoy the respect that Schultz gives his characters, they aren't simply "kids" but are full of "adult" sensibilities. And I love that you never know what the adults look like or even what they actually say in this world.

A Katie German I think the idea that the Charlie Brown crew are kids but they are so human with real problems and real solutions. It is easy to see yourself reflected in the faces of Charlie when he is having a rough day or Lucy who can see the answer from a mile away.

IT'S DARK OUTSIDE



Feb. 16-24

A Production from The Last Great Hunt (Perth, Australia) CREATED BY Tim Watts, Arielle Gray and Chris Isaacs MUSIC COMPOSED BY Rachael Dease

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