

## PRE-SHOW EDUCATIONAL PACKET

Welcome to Theatre of Youth's 52<sup>nd</sup> season and ***YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN***

This packet has been designed with an educator, parent and student in mind! We want to broaden our audience's experience and help you to prepare for future visits to The Historic Allendale theatre! To the right you will find a table of contents that will help you navigate through the packet. All of our activities have been assigned a title to help you connect this experience with the NYS Next Generation Standards. Those titles are COMPREHEND, CHALLENGE, COMMUNICATE, CREATE, COMMENT and CONNECT. We hope that this will help you lead a discussion or inspire you to create your own show and book based activities.

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**The Theatre**

**Theatre Etiquette**

**The Show**

**Who Works at A Theatre?**

**Activities**

**Get Ready for Your Trip!**

Students that attend performances with their school also have access to our playbill which includes a post-show educational guide. These activities will also be titled for educators to connect the classroom to the children's experience when they visit Theatre of Youth. Activities include vocabulary, an opportunity to be inspired artistically, or to engage in a conversation about a topic or a concern.

### **THE THEATRE:**

The Allendale, one of Buffalo's first neighborhood theatres, was built in 1913 and included gold trimmed walls, leaded glass windows and a stunning domed ceiling with dozens of modern light bulbs. At first, the popular movie house specialized in silent films and photoplays of Broadway productions, with a custom-built symphonic organ for accompaniment. The years were not kind to The Allendale Theatre. Fortunately, the Allentown Association saved it from demolition and in 1986, Theatre of Youth entered into a partnership with the City of Buffalo to raise funds and renovate the theatre for its permanent home.



Preserving the original integrity during the "make-over", the theatre is equipped with a proscenium stage, fly and wing space, a sound and lighting system, dressing rooms, rehearsal space, and seating for 469 people.

**THEATRE ETIQUETTE:**

Theatre etiquette is a simple set of rules to help audience members fully enjoy the show, and for actors and the backstage crew to safely perform their work for you! Here are some important elements of theatre etiquette:



- Arrive on time and get to your seat without running.
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins.
- Respect the theatre. Don't put your feet on the seats and avoid bouncing up and down.
- Turn OFF and put away phones and other electronic devices.
- Please do not talk to your neighbor during the performance.
- No foods or drinks inside the theater.
- If you like something that you see, you may clap or laugh- it shows the actors that you like what they are doing!
- Open your eyes, your hearts and your minds and enjoy the show!



**THE SHOW:**

**YOU'RE A GOOD MAN,  
CHARLIE BROWN (Revised)!**

Recommended for ages 3+

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

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.

[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

Charlie Brown and the entire Peanuts gang explore life's great questions as they play baseball, struggle with homework, sing songs, swoon over their crushes, and celebrate the joy of friendship.

**WHO WORKS AT A THEATRE?**

Theatre is all about collaboration.

Discovering the many roles needed to create, rehearse and present a play is like learning a theatre's special formula to success. It allows us to observe how artistic companies collaborate, much like your favorite sports team. Whether or not you like performing, you may be surprised by the way some of these positions peak your interest! When audience members like yourself are familiar with these roles, seeing a play is more exciting because we can appreciate the effort that goes into presenting a great show.



Here are some of the roles you'll find within a theatre company. If you were part of a production, what roles would you be interested in exploring? Circle them!

<b>Playwright</b>	The storyteller who writes the script, creating the words and dialogue.
<b>Producer</b>	The person who plans, organizes, and finances the production.
<b>Artistic Director</b>	The creative leader who shapes the artistic vision and style of the show.
<b>Director</b>	The leader responsible for guiding the actors and overall production.
<b>Choreographer</b>	The expert who creates dance or stage combat routines and choreography for the performers.
<b>Designer</b>	The artist who designs costumes, makeup, sets, lighting, and other visual elements.
<b>Stage Manager</b>	The organizer who ensures the show runs smoothly backstage during performances.
<b>Crew</b>	The team of behind-the-scenes workers who handle technical and set aspects.
<b>Cast</b>	The group of actors who portray the characters and bring the story to life.
<b>Audience</b>	The people who attend the performance to enjoy and experience the show.

## ACTIVITIES:

**COMPREHEND:** Who is Charlie Brown and how did he get so popular?

Did you know that Charlie Brown is a cartoon character from a comic strip called "Peanuts"? Charles Monroe Schulz (nicknamed "Sparky") was a quiet boy who loved art and comic books. As he grew up, he continued perfecting his cartooning style which led to the creation of his famous Peanut characters that include Snoopy, Lucy, Sally, Schroeder, Linus and Charlie Brown.

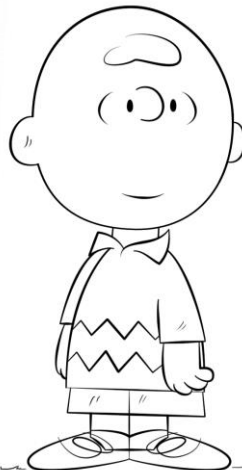
Do you know which character is which? Write their names next to their photo! Can you decorate the page? What could surround the peanuts as they prepare for the holiday season?



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SUPER  
COLORS



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Our author and illustrator's comic strips first appear in the newspaper 73 years ago! His work became so popular that soon, "Peanuts" could be found in books, theme parks, television and staged musicals like *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!* (Libguides)



Charles M. Schulz "Peanuts" – November 25 1950  
 "This Peanuts strip is significant for the fact that Charlie Brown appears without his iconic zig-zag shirt. Schulz did not add this detail until December 21, 1950."

**CHALLENGE:** Help Charles M. Schulz make his next comic strip!  
 Use the characters above to draw your own comic strips. What activity will your characters be doing? Try your best to have a starting, middle, and ending drawing to help tell a small story! You can make 2 short strips or 1 longer story.

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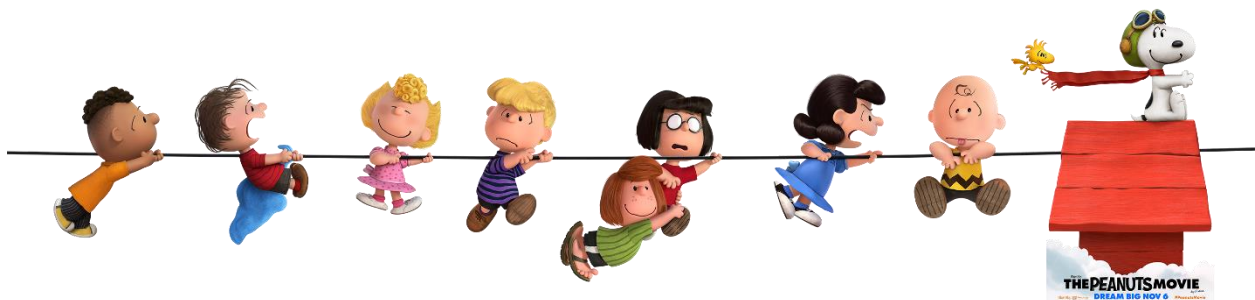
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**COMMUNICATE:** Let's chat!

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN is all about happiness and friendship...

1. Which character do you think is Charlie Brown's best friend and why?
2. What makes someone a good friend?
3. What kind of activities make you happy? Can you tell a story about a time you did that activity? Who were you with and when?
4. What is something you have never done before but would love to try?
5. Charlie Brown is very kind. What are different ways we can be kind?



**CREATE:** With happiness being such a popular theme in YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN, what do you think Charlie and Snoopy are daydreaming about in the illustration below? What is the weather like and what surrounds them? Use your imagination to complete the picture.



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**COMMENT AND CONNECT:**

Here is one of the most popular songs from the musical!  
[Listen to the song here](#) and/or read along with the lyrics

"Happiness" from YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN  
Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner

Happiness is finding a pencil.  
Pizza with sausage.  
Telling the time.  
Happiness is learning to whistle.  
Tying your shoe for the very first time.



Happiness is playing the drum in your own school band.  
And happiness is walking hand in hand.  
Happiness is two kinds of ice cream.  
Knowing a secret.  
Climbing a tree.  
Happiness is five different crayons.  
Catching a firefly.  
Setting him free.

Happiness is being alone every now and then.  
And happiness is coming home again.  
Happiness is morning and evening,  
Daytime and night time too.  
For happiness is anyone and anything at all  
That's loved by you.



Happiness is having a sister.  
Sharing a sandwich.  
Getting along.  
Happiness is singing together when day is through,  
And happiness is those who sing with you.  
Happiness is morning and evening,  
Daytime and nighttime too.  
For happiness is anyone and anything at all  
That's loved by you.



Do you agree with the song? What would you add to make it even better?

Happiness is \_\_\_\_\_



## ARE YOU READY TO JOIN US?

We're bursting with excitement as we eagerly await your arrival at our theater for the upcoming performance. The stage is all set to whisk you away into a world filled with laughter, emotions, and captivating moments. The talented and hardworking members of our team have poured their hearts into creating a show that will form lasting and treasured memories. All we're missing is you, our audience!

## LET'S GO TO THE THEATRE!



After reading through our pre-show education packet, I'm sure you're now familiar with what you may see on stage. Now what about your field trip?

Have you ever been to the theatre before? What's it like?

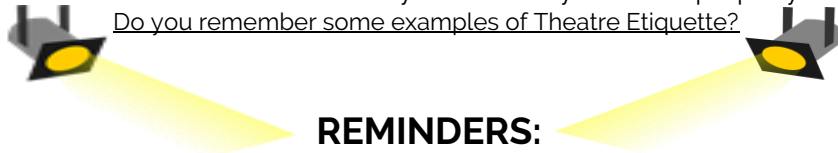
The day of your trip, you will get on a big school bus and drive to Allentown in

downtown Buffalo. Upon your arrival at TOY, you will quietly enter our beautiful building, visit the restrooms as needed, then find your seats. You'll see lots of chairs, big tall ceilings and a beautiful stage.



Following your instructors, you will sit with your group and start to get excited for the show, but remember to remain seated! This will allow everyone behind you to see properly.

Do you remember some examples of Theatre Etiquette?



### REMINDERS:

- At the performance, you will receive a playbill (given to your teacher) that includes our post-show educational workbook to bring back to your class.
- After each on school time performance, the cast and crew will be available for a talk back. This will give you the opportunity to ask us any questions you may have about the show, the characters, the theatre, etc.

Start to brainstorm and see you soon!

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## Work Cited

Libguides: Charles M. Schulz: Cartoonist & creator of "Peanuts": Overview

"70 Years of Peanuts." *Charles M. Schulz Museum*, 19 Dec. 2020, [schulzmuseum.org/70-years-of-peanuts-online/](https://schulzmuseum.org/70-years-of-peanuts-online/).

