

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 30, 2009

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## Two River Theater Company presents



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

December 15, 2009 - January 3, 2010

**Red Bank, NJ**—Following the success of last year's *A Year with Frog and Toad*, Two River Theater Co. is proud to present *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown The Musical*. For more than sixty years, Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the whole "Peanuts" gang have been making childhood just a little more wonderful. It is a truly universal story that spans generations, and this holiday season, we are thrilled to bring this two-time Tony Award winner to Red Bank.

Says director Matt Pfeiffer: "Our intention here today is to capture, in a single theatrical experience, the spirit of the Peanuts comic strip. Peanuts delighted and entertained audiences of all ages from 1950 to 2000. We hope that this experience is filled with discovery, fun, and humanity. What better time than the holidays to examine and celebrate our indelible human spirit? And what better champion of that spirit than Charlie Brown, who tries to remain optimistic in the face of certain disaster?"

Two River audiences will remember cast members **Doug Hara** (Charlie Brown), **Erin Weaver** (Sally), and **Richard Ruiz** (Snoopy) from Two River's most recent production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The cast also includes **Jordan Barbour** (Schroeder), **Matt Mundy** (Linus), **and Lauren Singerman** (Lucy).

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown begins previews on Tuesday, December 15, opens Saturday, December 19, and runs through Sunday, January 3.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

Matt Pfeiffer, *Director*: Associate Artistic Director of Theatre Exile in Philadelphia. He's thrilled to be making his Two River Theater Co. debut. Other credits include; Arden Theatre, Walnut St, InterAct, 1812 Productions, Delaware Theatre Co, and 13 seasons with the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Later this season Matt will direct *Romeo and Juliet* for the Arden Theatre and *Shining City* for Theatre Exile. Matt is a 5-time Barrymore nominee including nominations for his direction of *Bug*, Theatre Exile; *Glengarry Glen*, Theatre Exile; and the world premiere of *The Foocy*, Lantern Theatre. Matt is the recipient of the F. Otto Haas Award for An Emerging Theatre Artist.

Jordan Barbour\*, Schroeder: New York: Dance Dance Revolution; Our Country's Good; Measure for Measure; The Three Sisters. International Tour: The Shipment by Young Jean Lee. Regional: Rent, Weston Playhouse; Stormy Weather with Leslie Uggams, Pasadena Playhouse; Cold Hard Cash, Big Money, Wing It!, Party Come Here, Williamstown; Yellowman, Yeast Nation, Hair, Hamlet, Topdog/Underdog, Perseverance Theatre. Training: Juilliard; Williamstown; B.A., Columbia University.

**Doug Hara\***, Charlie Brown: Most recently seen as Puck in Two River's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Doug is a veteran ensemble member of Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre Company where he has participated in 16 productions including The Brothers Karamazov, Metamorphoses, West, Eurydice, The Arabian Nights, Up Against It, The Master and Margarita, and Lookingglass Hamlet.

Recent credits include A Prayer for Owen Meany and Something Intangible, Arden Theatre; and Our Town, Two River Theater Company. Broadway credits: Metamorphoses and The Boys of Winter. Off-Broadway: The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci, Metamorphoses, and Lookingglass Alice. Doug has worked with many regional theaters throughout the country including The Goodman Theatre (Odyssey, Journey to the West), About Face Theatre (11 Rooms of Proust), Jellyeye Drum Opera (Blood Lotus), The Huntington Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, Seattle Repertory, The Mark Taper Forum, McCarter Theatre, The Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, BAM, The Joyce Theatre, and Second Stage Theater.

Matt Mundy\*, Linus: A NYC resident, some recent credits include Gutenberg! The Musical!, The Last 5
Years, Foxfire, South Carolina Repertory Company; Romeo & Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, Daisy
Mayme, The Pearl Theatre Company; Irrationals, American Theatre of Actors; Drinking & Diving, Invisible
City Theatre Company; Almost September, National Music Theatre Network; Killgore: The Musical V &
VI, Upright Citizens Brigade; The Compleat Wrks of Willm Shkspr, The Warehouse Theatre; Upstate
Shakespeare Festival, Weathervane Playhouse, Granbury Opera House, WB Concerts' European tour of
Grease. He is also a voice over actor with commercials floating around the country. Visit
www.mattmundy.com. Mr. Mundy thanks his family and friends for their love. Oh, and support!

Richard Ruiz\*, Snoopy: Most recently seen as Starvling and Philostrate in TRTC's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Richard appeared Off-Broadway as Antonio in Two Gentlemen of Verona the Musical for the Public Theatre's Shakespeare in Central Park. Some regional theatre favorites include Nicely-Nicely in Guys and Dolls, Long Wharf Theatre; Lady Enid/Nicodemus in The Mystery of Irma Vep, Seattle's Intiman Theatre; Bergetto in 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, Baltimore Center Stage; and Hysterium in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Arden Theatre in Philadelphia. National Tours include Herman in Sweet Charity, Officer Barrel in Urinetown, Sancho in Man of La Mancha and a European Tour of Jesus Christ Superstar as King Herod. richardruizphotography.com

Lauren Singerman\*, Lucy: Regionally, she has appeared in Little Eagles, Royal Shakespeare Company; The Drunken City, world premiere, Kitchen Theatre Company; and The Most Happy Fella, Cider Mill Playhouse. New York credits include Sheila Callaghan's Ayravana Flies, world premiere, Vital Theatre Company; Pieces of the Throne, Epic Theatre Ensemble; and Survival, Samuel French OOB Festival. She recently appeared as imaginary friend Tori on All My Children. Lauren holds an MFA in Acting from Rutgers University. Thanks Pup!

Erin Weaver\*, Sally: Most recently seen as Hermia in TRTC's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Erin's previous shows include Mary in Mary's Wedding, Mary in A Murder, A Mystery & A Marriage, and Emily in Our Town, Two River Theater Company; Miranda in The Tempest and Thomasina in Arcadia, Folger Shakespeare Theatre; Marianne in The Miser and five holiday pantos, People's Light & Theater; Rapunzel in Into the Woods, Arden Theater; Anna in Syncopation, Act II Playhouse; and Cossette/Eponine in the First National Tour of Les Miserables. Ms. Weaver is an Honors Graduate from the University of the Arts with a BFA in Theater, a five-time nominee for Philadelphia's Barrymore Award, and a proud resident of Middletown, New Jersey.

Greg Brown, Music Director: As music director, musician, and arranger, Greg's past credits have included The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Broadway and Chicago companies; Spamalot, 1st Nat'l Tour; The Boy Friend directed by Julie Andrews, Nat'l Tour, Romantic Poetry, Manhattan Theatre Club: A Year With Frog and Toad and No Dogs Allowed, Atlantic Theater, "For Kids" series; Rent, Weston Playhouse; The Trouble With Doug, CAP21; Oedipus For Kids!, NYMF '06; and 19 productions with Goodspeed Musicals including creating arrangements for their stage adaptation of Emmet Otter's Jugband Christmas.

\*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association.

A live band—made up of Frank Vacin on reeds, and Joshua Samuels on drums—will accompany every performance.

The creative team is made up of **David P. Gordon** (set design), **Michael Lincoln** (lighting design), **Devon Painter** (costumes), who designed the costumes for *The Pavilion, Macbeth*, and *Melissa Arctic* here at TRTC, and **Zachary Williamson** (sound), a TRTC regular who most recently designed the sound for *26 Miles* earlier this season. **Suli Holum** (choreographer), who most recently directed TRTC's Summer Ensemble high school program, rounds out the company.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown is scheduled to run Tuesday, December 15 through Sunday, January

3. Tickets are \$24 - \$48. Get more information online at <a href="https://www.trtc.org">www.trtc.org</a>, call 732.345.1400, or visit the

Two River Theater Company Box Office in Red Bank, located at 21 Bridge Avenue. Box Office Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: 12pm-5pm.

The run of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown The Musical* begins with three student matinees on December 15, 16, and 17 at 10AM (all SOLD OUT), and another student matinee on Monday December 21 at 10AM (also SOLD OUT). Saturday, December 19 at 1PM is SCOUT DAY, where members of area girl and boy scout troupes may come see the show, play games, meet the cast, and earn a special interest badge. Sunday, December 20 is DIA DE LA FAMILIA, a community day for the family, with games, arts and crafts, snacks, and a live, simultaneous Spanish translation for those who would like it. Monday, December 28 is a post-show discussion group, led by the theater's volunteer guild.

Two River Theater Co. is accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair accessibility, assistive listening devices and large print programs at every performance. Accessible seating is available by reservation. For more information call the Box Office at **732.345.1400**.

## **CALENDAR NOTICE**

Events for You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown:

**December 15-17, 10AM** – Student Matinee Performances (SOLD OUT)

**Saturday, December 19, 1PM** – Scout Day is a fun day for Girl and Boy Scouts from across the state, and includes games, a backstage tour, the show, and a special interest patch! Tickets are \$30. Troop leaders may make reservations by calling 732.345.1400 ext. 813.

**Saturday, December 19, 7PM** – Opening Night for *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* with a pre-show party for the whole family and a milk and cookie toast with the actors following the performance.

**Sunday, December 20, 12PM** Dia De La Familia is a community day for the whole family, with games, arts and crafts, face-painting, tattoos, hot chocolate and an optional live Spanish translation. This is a free performance for the Latino community.

Monday, December 21, 10AM: Student Matinee Performance (SOLD OUT)

**Monday, December 28, 1PM** – Post-show children's discussion group, led by Two River Theater Co.'s volunteer guild.

Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* on **Saturday, December 19 at 7pm**. Please schedule tickets through Sean P. Murphy, Marketing Manager, by phone at **732.345.1400 ext. 1834** or via email at smurphy@trtc.org.

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**TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY** is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz and over the past 15 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners,

including Bruce Springsteen, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Stephen Colbert, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, Sheldon Harnick, and the African Children's Choir. The company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from the New Jersey Theatre Alliance in 2006, and from *The Star-Ledger* in both 2006 and 2008. At the July 2009 meeting of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, TRTC was designated as a Major Impact Organization. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre. TRTC is a member of LORT (League of Resident Theatres) and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.