

Your Family Arts Center

DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

Based on the television special by Bill Melendez and Lee Mendelson

Synopsis

One Act (60 minutes)

Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and all your favorite Peanuts characters come together to retell a classic story about finding the true meaning of Christmas.

It's almost Christmas and the kids are enjoying the season. Well, everyone except for Charlie Brown. While the others ice skate, throw snowballs, and receive Christmas cards, Charlie Brown is feeling depressed about the holiday.

Even Snoopy, dressed as Santa, is getting in on the fun. The kids catch snowflakes on their tongues (although Lucy informs the group she only eats January snow), create a snowman, and throw snowballs at a can (which Linus eventually knocks down with his blanket). But, in spite of all the merriment, Charlie Brown is still sad about Christmas.

Charlie Brown decides he needs to talk to someone about his sorrow. He goes to see doctor Lucy. Lucy, after happily accepting his money for her service, asks Charlie Brown what he fears. He reveals that he's feeling down about Christmas. Lucy's remedy? Charlie Brown needs involvement and she finally convinces him to direct the Christmas play.

Much to Charlie Brown's dismay, Snoopy is decorating his doghouse for Christmas in an effort to win prize money. Meanwhile, Linus and Lucy are attempting to craft the perfect letter to Santa Claus. And, reluctantly, Charlie Brown even helps his little sister, Sally, write her letter to Santa.

It's Charlie Brown's first rehearsal as director of the Christmas play. However, things quickly go awry. As Charlie Brown tries to give direction, the other kids just want to dance. When Lucy hands out parts, many of the kids complain or fight. And even Snoopy causes trouble during the rehearsal. Frustrated, Charlie Brown decides (and the others agree) that the play needs a Christmas tree to give it "the proper mood."

With Linus in tow, Charlie Brown goes off in search of the perfect Christmas tree. He thinks he finally finds the right one, although Linus is not sure the others will agree. It's just so small! But, Charlie Brown is convinced it's perfect.

Back at the rehearsal, Lucy is trying to get Schroeder to play the right version of *Jingle Bells* while Snoopy just enjoys the music and dances on the piano. When Charlie Brown shows up with his little tree, he quickly realizes Linus was right. Everyone mocks his tree! Disappointed, he begs for someone to tell him the true meaning of Christmas. Linus takes the stage and recites the story of Christ's birth. He says "that's what Christmas is all about."

Motivated by Linus's performance, Charlie Brown decides to go home and decorate his tree. He's going to show everyone that this **is** the right tree for the play. But, when the tree collapses from the weight of just one ornament, Charlie Brown sadly mopes away. Little does he know that the rest of the Peanuts gang has followed Charlie Brown home. They agree the tree isn't that bad and help decorate it. Charlie Brown returns to find Snoopy and the kids have fixed his tree. For the first time, Charlie Brown seems happy. He invites the audience to join in as the whole gang sings Christmas songs.

Notes:

-This play is filled with music and singing. Some of the characters play instruments such as handbells. A three-piece band remains onstage throughout the entire performance.

-There is a snowball fight during the play. A rogue snowball may come your way.

-Actors skate around the stage and through the audience.