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'Peanuts' gang comes to Milligan stage

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MILLIGAN COLLEGE — Join Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the whole "Peanuts" gang for memorable songs, laughter and lots of Lucy's 5-cent therapy as Milligan College presents the heart-warming musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" Thursday through Sunday in the McGlothlin-Street Theatre in Milligan's Gregory Center for the Liberal Arts.

The performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There will also be a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. General admission is \$10; student tickets are \$5.

This musical, based on the comic strip characters of Charles M. Schultz, has been a favorite of all ages since it first premiered in 1967. The 1999 revised version, with book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesner, is an even bigger hit with audiences young and old alike.

"I never tire of listening to the music and revisiting the characters that I loved to read every Sunday afternoon in the comic pages of the newspaper," said Dr. Dennis Elkins, professor of the practice of theater and humanities at Milligan. "They're like old friends you always loved to have around. Even if they tell the same stories over and over again, you just love being in their company because there are no pretensions — and you didn't have to think very hard to get the joke!"

The play is directed by Elkins, with scenic and lighting design by Milligan's Pamela Adolphi; vocal direction by Dr. Charlotte Anderson, assistant professor of the practice of music; and music conducted by Dr. Kellie Brown, associate professor of music.

The "Charlie Brown" cast showcases some of Milligan's finest talent. Senior Dan Ott, of Wooster, Ohio, is playing Charlie Brown.

Ott was last seen in Milligan's "Treasure Island" and "The Curious Savage."

Kylie Gaulding, a senior from Warsaw, Va., plays Lucy. She is best known for her role as Jo March in Milligan's production of "Little Women."

Making his Milligan stage debut is senior Addison Dillon, of Plainfield, Ind., in the role of Linus. Rounding out the cast are juniors Cara Beth Quisenberry, of Johnson City, playing Sally; Brennan Seth Tracy, of Oblong, Ill., playing Schroeder; and sophomore Colin Blowers, of Elizabethton, dancing around the stage as the lovable Snoopy. Seniors Melanie Richardson and Heather Knudtsen are the stage management team for the production.

Tickets will be available in the Milligan College Bookstore, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by calling 461-8733. For more information about arts events at Milligan, visit www.milligan.edu/arts.