



HERSHEY AREA  
PLAYHOUSE



A  
Charlie Brown  
CHRISTMAS

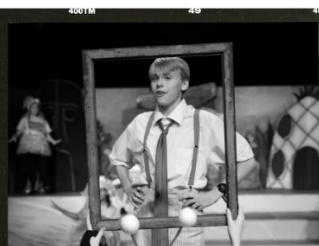


# DIRECT A SHOW IN OUR 2024 SEASON!

APPLY BY 12/15



*learn more at [hersheyareaplayhouse.com](https://hersheyareaplayhouse.com)*







# 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

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<i>Taylor Swisher</i>
<b>PRODUCER</b>	<i>Rosemary Bucher</i>
<b>STAGE MANAGER</b>	<i>Amy Jo Brixius</i>
<b>LIGHTING OPERATOR</b>	<i>Codey Fickes</i>
<b>SOUND</b>	<i>Matt Smoluk</i>
<b>PHOTOS</b>	<i>Toni Carosella</i>

**A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS  
IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS  
ON BEHALF OF TAMS WITMARK LLC.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)**

*The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the Internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author(s)'s rights and actionable under United States Copyright Law.*

*For more information, please visit:  
[concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists](http://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists)*



## PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to the Hershey Area Playhouse! I am thrilled to welcome you to our enchanting production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, a timeless classic synonymous with the holiday season. In the spirit of our 2023 season, we continue to explore the richness of human nature through vulnerability, fear, and hope, and Charles M. Schulz's beloved characters beautifully encapsulate these themes.

*A Charlie Brown Christmas* may seem like a children's narrative, but within its heartwarming story lies a profound message about the true meaning of Christmas. Our dedicated cast, crew, and production team, under the guidance of first-time director Taylor Swisher, have worked tirelessly to bring this iconic tale to life on our stage. We are incredibly proud to welcome Taylor to our directorial staff this year. No stranger to the Playhouse stage, Taylor serves the organization in many ways, including as a talented actor and member of the Board of Directors. Watching Taylor's clear vision, dedication, and love for working with others has been a dream, and we can't wait for you to share in this delightful show.

A production like this would not be possible without the unwavering support of our volunteers, as well as the dedication of our current and past Board and committee members. Their generosity and commitment to quality theatre in Central Pennsylvania pave the way for memorable performances like the one you are about to witness. We extend our sincerest thanks to each one of them.

As we continue the tradition of delivering exceptional theater experiences, we invite you to revisit us for our upcoming productions. If you find yourself captivated by the magic of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and are in a position to support our ongoing efforts, we encourage you to share your gifts at [hersheyareaplayhouse.com](https://hersheyareaplayhouse.com). Your continued support is instrumental in keeping the arts alive and thriving in our community.

Wishing you a heartwarming and joyous experience as you join us in celebrating the holiday spirit with *A Charlie Brown Christmas*!

**JASMINE AMMONS BUCHER,  
BOARD CHAIR**

To all the wonderful supporters of the Hershey Area Playhouse,

I'm thrilled to welcome you all here to see *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. As a longtime holiday favorite, it was a wonder to be able to bring it to life for everyone to see.

I want to thank the amazing cast, for putting in the work and adding their own flair and personality to such memorable and loved characters. Thank you to the production team, Amy Jo, Codey, and Matt, for adding to the magic this show brings. Thank you to Rosemary, for being a sounding board as well as a great producer! Thank you to the volunteers who come to each show and keep an upbeat environment. Thank you to the Board members who support these productions and make them possible with all your combined knowledge and experiences. Thank you to my Mom, for being the person who talked me down as many times as needed during this new experience for me.

And lastly, THANK YOU to the amazing patrons and supporters of the Hershey Area Playhouse. We love bringing you into our world and are honored to be able to share this timeless story with you. Myself, the cast, and the production team all wish you the happiest of holidays.

With love,

**TAYLOR SWISHER,  
DIRECTOR**

## CAST

<b>CHARLIE BROWN</b>	<i>Edward Valentine</i>
<b>SNOOPY</b>	<i>Giavanna Signore</i>
<b>LUCY</b>	<i>Natalie Tibbs</i>
<b>LINUS</b>	<i>Mac Kishel</i>
<b>PIG PEN</b>	<i>Aaron Eberly</i>
<b>FRIEDA</b>	<i>Carrie McFeaters</i>
<b>SCHROEDER</b>	<i>Grant Manning</i>
<b>VIOLET</b>	<i>Mary Manning</i>
<b>SALLY</b>	<i>Polly Manning</i>
<b>PATTY</b>	<i>Emily Myers</i>
<b>SHERMY</b>	<i>Rachel Wilson</i>

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. "Christmas Time Is Here"
  - 1a. Transition to Snowballs
  2. Snowballs
  - 2a. Transition to Booth
3. My Own Dog, Gone Commercial
4. Christmas Is Coming / Linus & Lucy
  5. Finding A Tree
  - 5a. "Just Like Me"
  - 5b. After Finding A Tree
6. Schroeder's Christmas Concert
  7. After Linus' Message
  8. "Finding Christmas"

# CAST



Edward  
Valentine



Giavanna  
Signore



Natalie  
Tibbs



Mac  
Kishel



Aaron  
Eberly



Carrie  
McFeaters



Grant  
Manning



Mary  
Manning



Polly  
Manning



Emily  
Myers



Rachel  
Wilson

# CREATIVE TEAM



Taylor  
Swisher



Rosemary  
Bucher



Amy Jo  
Brixius



Codey  
Fickes



Matt  
Smoluk



# ABOUT THE CAST

**EDWARD VALENTINE (CHARLIE BROWN)** is excited to return to the Hershey Area Playhouse for his third show here. He recently performed in HAP's *Bandstand* (Davy Zlatic) and *School of Rock* (Mr. Spencer). He also participated in Palmyra Theaters productions in both the pit and cast. When not performing, he works at Calvin Klein as a sales associate. A big thanks to everyone who helped with the show, it's been an absolute blast to play as Charlie Brown. Thanks to my Dad, Grandma, and two sisters for supporting me through everything. Thank you to Mac for helping me sing at the correct times and not over Doug! He/him

**GIAVANNA SIGNORE (SNOOPY)** is so excited to be returning to Hershey Area Playhouse to play one of her favorite characters of all time! In elementary and middle school, she was featured in a few plays and musicals, her favorites being Maybelle Birdsong in *Jack Frost* (Theatre Harrisburg) and Chef Ludmilla in *Dear Edwina Jr.* at Hershey Area Playhouse. As a freshman in high school she attended CASA charter school where she studied theater, performing in multiple scenes and plays constructed by the class. Her most recent performance was as Laurel in Central Dauphin High School's version of *June July August*. In her free time she enjoys watching black and white movies and shopping. She would like to thank her parents, Granny, Mamaw and Poppop, and God for all of the love and support she's been shown through the years. She/her

**NATALIE TIBBS (LUCY)** is happy to be back on stage at the Hershey Area Playhouse! She was most recently seen as *Mrs. June Adams* in *Bandstand* and also performed in *Sweeney Todd* (company) and *Hot N' Cole* (Natalie). She has enjoyed bringing this holiday classic to life and playing such a fun character and would like to thank the cast and crew for their teamwork. Much love to Joe, Brad and her favorite of all the Lucys - her daughter! She/her

**MAC KISHEL (LINUS)** is very excited to be joining performing with the Hershey Area Playhouse for the first time. He was most recently seen as Colonel Mustard in *Clue*, and the fisherman in *Big Fish* at Palmyra High School. He has enjoyed the process of putting this show on and would like to thank the cast and crew for making the production possible. Thanks to the whole cast and especially to my parents for always supporting me throughout my theatre career. He/him

**AARON EBERLY (PIG PEN)** is a business accounting student at Harrisburg Area Community College who discovered his love for the stage in a required acting course. He is excited to be in his first performance at the Playhouse. After doing lighting for several shows there, such as *Clue* and *A Murder is Announced*, he is finally on the other side of the curtain. He would like to thank his family for their support as well as his wonderful girlfriend. He/him

**CARRIE MCFEATERS (FRIEDA)** is thrilled to be a part of Hershey Area Playhouse's production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Some of Carrie's favorite past roles include *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Lucy Van Pelt), *Beauty and the Beast* (Madame de la Grand Bouche) and *Scrooge* (Mrs. Cratchit). Carrie also served as the assistant director for *Charlotte's Web* and *The Lion King Jr* at Lebanon Community Theater. She has a music business degree and a music voice degree from Lebanon Valley College. Carrie would like to thank her Mom, Dad, and the rest of her family for their love and support. She feels that it has been a crazy, but amazing journey and she could not have gotten through it all without her family. She also would like to thank the cast and crew for all the help and support they provided through all the rehearsals and shows. She/her

**GRANT MANNING (SCHROEDER)** is happy to be back on the HAP stage after debuting in this summer's *9 to 5* (Josh). Grant is a freshman at Palmyra Area High School and excited for this year's upcoming *Disney's Newsies*. Previously he has performed in *Footloose: Youth Edition* (Willard), *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Scuttle), and *Anything Goes: Youth Edition*. He/him

**MARY MANNING (VIOLET)** is excited to make her on stage debut. No stranger to the Playhouse as she is normally behind the scenes costuming. She has previously worked on several HAP shows including *9 to 5*, *Bandstand*, and *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition*. She has also costumed for LVC and her home base Palmyra Theatre. She's had the privilege of working with Palmyra Theatre for 9 years and getting to work alongside her children. She works at Noah's Little Ark Preschool as a PreK teacher. Thanks to everyone for making this a great experience! She/her

**POLLY MANNING (SALLY)** is excited to be returning to the HAP stage after this summer's *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition*. Polly has also worked with Palmyra Theatre and been a part of *Big Fish*, *Rock of Ages Youth Edition*, *The SpongeBob Musical* and *The Grunch*. She is a student at Palmyra Area Middle School and looking forward to their upcoming production of *The Wizard of Oz, Youth Edition*. Polly wants to thank everyone for letting her be a part of one of her favorite Christmas programs. She/her

**EMILY MYERS (PATTY)** is so excited to be finishing out this amazing season with her 6th HAP show this year! She is incredibly grateful to have been able to be involved in the entirety of the 2023 season. Emily was most recently seen in *Steel Magnolias* as Shelby last month on the HAP stage! Other previous credits include *School of Rock* (Patty DiMarco), *First Date* (Lauren), *9 to 5* (Maria), and *Bandstand* (Jo/Julia u/s). Thank you all for a beautiful year of theatre, here's to many more in this amazing space! For my pap, Goey Myers, I love and miss you every day. She/her

**RACHEL WILSON (SHERMY)** is in her first production with Hershey Area Playhouse. When not performing, she is an associate with EdFinancial Services and enjoys binge watching television and video games. Her favorite roles include Bertha De Blues in *Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder*, Polonius in *Hamlet*, and Tom Thumb in *Barnum*. Thanks to her parents, Andy, Lennard, Phoebe, and Angie for always supporting her. She/her

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**TAYLOR SWISHER (DIRECTOR)** is so happy to be directing for the first time at HAP. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* has always been a childhood favorite. Taylor has been involved in theater her whole life both on stage, in pit orchestra, running lights for a few shows, and as a volunteer for Palmyra Theatre. Her productions include *The Wizard of Oz*, *State Fair*, *Guys and Dolls Jr.*, *Fiddler in the Roof Jr.*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Music Man*, *Footloose*, and *The King and I*. Over the past few years she has been on stage here at HAP as Waitress #1 in *Rock of Ages* and Holly in *The Wedding Singer*. She is also a part of the HAP Board. She can't wait to see what comes next in her theater journey. She/her

**ROSEMARY BUCHER (PRODUCER)** is an NYC-based producer, director, writer, singer, arts administrator, graphic designer, therapist for theatre teachers (amateur licensing associate at Concord Theatricals), and HAP board member. Directing projects include *Chess* (Lebanon Valley College), *Dog Sees God* (LVC), *Perfectly Normal* (Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Festival, NYC), *Digital Short Plays* (Hershey Area Playhouse), *Some Enchanted Evening* (with Kevin Edward Gane, HAP), *Tilda Swinton Betrayed Us* (NY Thespians), and *Sweeney Todd* (HAP). [rosemarybucher.com](http://rosemarybucher.com). She/her

**AMY JO BRIXIUS (STAGE MANAGER)** is excited to help behind the scenes for this show! She has previously been seen in *School of Rock* (Ms.Sheinkopf), *9 to 5* (Violet), *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett), *The Wedding Singer* (Angie), *Rock of Ages* (Justice), *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), *Gypsy* (Mazeppa), and *The Music Man* (Ethel Tofflemier) all at HAP. She has also appeared in *Anything Goes* (Mrs. Harcourt) at the Carlisle Theatre. Amy Jo serves on the Playhouse Board of Directors and is the Chair of the Production and Artistic Committee. She/her

**CODEY FICKES (LIGHTING OPERATOR)** is returning for his second show at Hershey Area Playhouse. Previously at HAP, Codey was Stage Manager for *Rock of Ages*. Codey has year of experience working in production and stage management, lighting design, set construction, and almost every job in the theatre that doesn't involve singing or playing an instrument. Outside of the theatre, Codey is a social studies teacher at Palmyra Area High School. He/him.

**MATT SMOLUK (SOUND)** is excited to work on his seventh show at the Hershey Area Playhouse. In addition to helping with sound design and Foley for several other shows at the Playhouse, he has been involved in 15 shows with the Palmyra High School musical program. Matt has a bachelor's degree in music recording technology from Lebanon Valley College and currently works in IT. He/him



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHAIR**  
**VICE CHAIR**  
**SECRETARY**  
**TREASURER**

*Jasmine Ammons Bucher*

*Amanda Forr*

*Jennifer Shugars*

*Natalie Tibbs*

*Amy Jo Brixius*

*Tony Bender*

*Rosemary Bucher*

*Karen Krok*

*Taylor Swisher*

*Jonathan Walker-VanKuren*

*For more information about Hershey Area Playhouse, please visit*

**HERSHEYAREAPLAYHOUSE.COM**



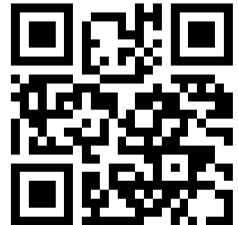
**J's Property Maintenance**

*Landscape & Design*

**717 644 7091**

**Call for services offered or to schedule a consultation**

# 2024 SEASON



HERSHEYAREAPLAYHOUSE.COM • (717) 533-8525

20% OFF GROUPS OF 12+ • CALL TO RESERVE!