

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS

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Title: **HHS Drama Club Presents You're a Good Man Charlie Brown**

Art DiBenedetto, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces-

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, the perennial favorite for children of all ages, finds a home on the Hopatcong High School stage this April 4-7th. Performances are 7p on Thursday through Saturday nights, and 2p for a Sunday matinee. Ticket prices are \$10 and \$7 for Seniors and Students.

"Our decision to perform this particular show was in large part due to our desire to offer everyone in our community, whether they are 6 or 60, an enjoyable night at the theater," said Kerri Batche, who is directing *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* at HHS, her second production since taking over from Joseph Ross who retired in 2018.

With a small cast and relatively simple staging, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* is about the beloved characters that are so identifiable and relatable to every generation of theater-goer. Sophomore Jacob Escala, fresh from his buzz-worthy performance on the HHS stage as Dr. Einstein in last fall's production of *Arsenic & Old Lace* plays everyman, down-trodden Charlie Brown. Senior Kelly Nee transforms against type into sharp-tongued and lovesick Lucy van Pelt who is smitten with the ever-handsome and witty junior Matthew Smith who plays pianist Schroeder, a boy who most definitely does not reciprocate the ardor shown him by Lucy. Senior AJ Amela embodies the philosophical blanket-toting Linus van Pelt. Abigail Dekkar plays Charlie Brown's little sister Sally. Junior Fernando Leyva shines as the ever-lovable and most talented beagle, Snoopy.

In addition to this stalwart cast, a healthy ensemble was created from high school and middle school alike adding depth to the HHS stage.

In the picture, from left to right, Matthew Smith (Junior) plays Schroeder, AJ Amela (Senior) plays Linus, Fernando Leyva (Junior) plays Snoopy, Kelly Nee (Senior) plays Lucy, Jacob Escala (Sophomore) plays Charlie Brown, and Abigail Dekkar (Senior) plays Sally.

