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Student-Directed "Dog Sees God" Revisits Comic Strip Characters

Winthrop University

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Student-Directed "Dog Sees God" Revisits Comic Strip Characters

Quick Facts

- "Dog Sees God" will run Oct. 7-10 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. in Johnson Studio Theatre.
- The play includes adult themes, content and language.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Pigpen is an obsessive-compulsive neat freak, Sally has turned goth and Lucy's new home is an institution – senior theatre major David Hutto Jr. and a student cast and crew will explore the radically altered lives of these "Peanuts" characters in their production of Bert V. Royal's **"Dog Sees God."**

The dramatic-comic play, which includes adults themes, content and language, will Oct. 7-9 at 8 p.m., Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. in **Johnson Studio Theatre**. Set during Charlie Brown's teen years, **"Dog Sees God"** finds Charlie (Darryl LaPlante of Summerville, S.C.) distraught by the death of Snoopy, a loss that forces him to question his beliefs about the afterlife. When he turns to his friends for help, Charlie realizes they all have their own serious issues to face, including drug/alcohol abuse, eating disorders, peer pressure and bullying, among others.

These difficult but universal problems, said Hutto, are what drew him to direct **"Dog Sees God,"** an "emotional show that depicts a lot of issues that hit close to home." Hutto, who first read the play in December, added that "keeping the emotions going from scene to scene" has been one of the biggest challenges for the cast of eight student actors.

Over the past few months, Hutto (Orangeburg, S.C.) has worked closely with his eight-member technical crew and two advisers – Stephen Gundersheim, faculty adviser, and technical adviser Biff Edge – to create this new world of Charles Schultz's characters.

Hutto said he hopes that the production will "open people's eyes" to the serious issues that all teenagers face.

"The play deals with many issues that affect everyone at some point in life, so I hope people leave with a better understanding that these are serious issues that do need to be discussed," Hutto explained.

Play seating is limited, and no late seating will be permitted. Tickets are \$5 with Winthrop I.D. and \$10/general public for the Oct. 7-8 performances and \$8/with I.D. and \$15/general public Oct. 9-11.

Call the Box Office at 803/323-4014 or e-mail boxoffice@winthrop.edu for ticket information.

[\[Back to Previous Page\]](#)

