

## Charlie Brown a Success

by Jesús Celebrados '08

Everyone knows about Charlie Brown and his lovable pet beagle, Snoopy. Those two are iconic figures in Charles Schultz's Peanuts comic strips. This comic series is so popular and one example of the Peanuts influence is in the musical comedy *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. In Mount Saint Michael Academy's school play adaptation of the musical, Charlie Brown is played by fellow Mount student Raul Lazo. He is good as the title character, portraying Charlie to near perfection. His Charlie Brown, like the original character we know and love, is dull, pathetic, pitiful, and overly philosophical. He is Napoleon Dynamite and Woody Allen in one. However, one can't help admiring ol' Chuck as he shows guts in overcoming a bad day.

Of course, the story of Charlie Brown wouldn't be complete without the beloved Peanuts characters, and most of these characters make it in the musical and Mount's own version of it. Ernesto Tobar, another Mount student, is Charlie's friend, Linus, who is renowned for his naïve ways and his obsession with his beloved blanket. Mr. Tobar plays Linus very well. Linus's sister, Lucy (played by St. Barnabas student Amber-Tiara Redman), is arrogance incarnate as she bosses around Charlie Brown and his friends, and Peppermint Patty (played by another Barnabas student, Charisma-Angelica Hernandez) give Chuck and pals and helping hand. However, no Peanuts story is complete without the famous beagle, Snoopy, and (although I really wanted Geordy Skolnick to play him), Jordan Rivera is a worthwhile Snoopy. Jordan gives an enthusiastic, energetic performance.

This Mount Saint Michael adaptation of the Charlie Brown musical falls under the direction of Mount faculty teacher, Mr. Vincent Amendola. Although it is clearly an amateur production, the play is well done. There are minimal and simple, yet very effective sets, lighting, and a sound system. In addition to the sound effects, Eric DeRosa '07 plays bass guitar, while Mr. and Mrs. Varuolo add drums and keyboards respectively. This production is, in Snoopy's words, "not bad, not ball at all," for it manages to be quite entertaining, with good acting, fun, enjoyable songs, and it manages to capture the spirit of Peanuts. It is worth the viewer's time and should be enjoyed for what it is: light-hearted entertainment.

Overall, you're a good play, Charlie Brown.