

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Classic Cartoons From Page to Stage Share Comedy & Bully Awareness Cast of Moonlit Wings' Camp Drama workshops "A Peanuts Musical"!

In a playroom full of gymnastics equipment, mats, backpacks, lunch bags, and craft supplies, four girls gossip in a group while a lonely boy looks on. Cast members at Moonlit Wings "CAMP DRAMA", held at Providence RECenter, are workshopping their new musical, "A Peanuts Musical!" Based off of the original comics and television specials, the kids at Camp Drama this session are enjoying bringing cartoon characters to life from page to stage.

Moonlit Wings Productions, founded by Artistic Director Walid Chaya, is Northern Virginia's celebrated theatre! We make art: Fun. Accessible. Universal. We are a community development based program in Northern Virginia that focuses around unifying young performers of any background into visually stimulating, educational performances. Every two weeks we receive about 30 cast members ages 7-14 and within two short weeks campers are challenged to craft a show through improvisation, play-writing, choreography/dance, singing, acting, and taking a field trip to a professional production.

Camp Drama is not just looking at the comedy in the Peanuts comics, but also the ramifications that such loneliness and teasing could wreak on any real boy or girl. To address issues of bullying, the campers have completed a playwriting workshop with their Moonlit Wings creative team leaders and are writing and developing original pieces on the theme of "Bully Awareness" to perform for the other nearby day camps.

Chilcote describes the children's ingenuity: "It is so wonderful to see them create something on their own. They consider everything: acting, sets, costumes, props, even stage combat. While the glitz and glamour of Broadway spectacle is enjoyable, we are not only about stars here, we are about the importance of theatre and how it can change how we interact with each other on and off the stage." Moreover, according to Chilcote, the kids seem to be more attuned to the deeper, sadder elements of Charlie Brown's story. "You can really see a difference in the way kids are behaving after we block the bullying scenes."

As summer lends to adventures and opportunities for growth, this production comes at a great time, and with a simple message, "*Happiness is just being yourself.*"

We invite you to see what our cast has been working on in their final Dress Rehearsal on **Thursday, July 7, 2011** from **2:30-4:00pm** at Providence RECenter, **7525 Marc Drive, Falls Church, VA.**

Thank you for championing the cause of theatre for the community! If you have any questions, please feel free to email info@moonlitwings.org back or call 202-567-SHOW.