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## Movie review: Old friends back in 'The Peanuts Movie'

By James Grant, nsfeatures@news-sentinel.com  
Thursday, November 05, 2015 3:01 AM

"The Peanuts Movie," which opens nationally on Friday, is the one movie this year that will have you exclaiming "Good grief" in the best possible way.

The film, which revisits the classic beloved comic strip characters created by Charles M. Schulz — including Charlie Brown, his dog Snoopy and best friend Linus, and Linus' opinionated sister, Lucy, among a host of others — brings to the silver screen all of the warmth and humor of the original newspaper strip and the classic television specials of the 1960s.

While Charlie Brown and his friends have made it to the big screen previously in four other feature films, most notably "A Boy Named Charlie Brown" from 1969, this new film feels like the perfect continuation of the familiar Peanuts characters that first appeared in animated form in the TV specials "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965) and "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" (1966).

The voices in "The Peanuts Movie" are dead ringers for the voices from those TV specials, which are the blueprint for every small- or large-screen production of the Peanuts characters. The music includes new recordings of classic Vince Guaraldi-composed "Christmas Time is Here" and "Lucy and Linus," along with some newer music as well, all of which will elicit fond memories of childhood in many adults in the audience.

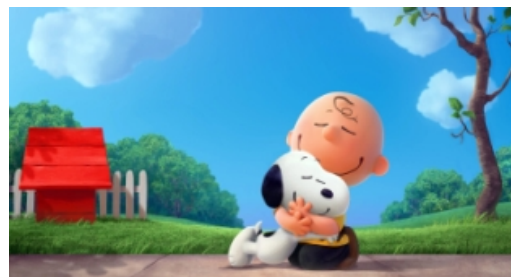
The plot also treads on the familiar ground of Charlie Brown's desire to fit in with his gang of friends, as well as his infatuation with the red-headed girl who moves into his neighborhood and steals his heart.

Helmed by Craig Schulz, son of Charles M. Schulz, "The Peanuts Movie" always stays true to the simple humor of childhood experiences, with a sly adult world view that Charles M. Schulz evoked in all of his famous comic strips with these characters.

New 3-D animation gives the Peanuts characters a fresh visual boost that enables the film and characters to seem more modern without losing one bit of the gentle and heartfelt emotions generated by Charles M. Schulz when he was creating his comic strips.

However, with its references to the first walk on the moon in 1969, Snoopy's use of a typewriter and the absence of any modern devices, such as cellphones, the film also has a bit of a retro feel. It doesn't seem dated, though, because of the focus on Charles M. Schulz's timeless observations on childhood.

For longtime fans of Charlie Brown who want to relive their cherished childhood memories of the Peanuts gang or who want to share them with their children or grandchildren, "The Peanuts Movie" is the perfect opportunity to discover an old friend in a shiny new 21st-century presentation that will still feel like home.



Charlie Brown and his dog, Snoopy, star in the new film "The Peanuts Movie," which opens Friday and centers around each character going on a brave quest. (From The Associated Press)

### More Information

#### Film review

#### 'The Peanuts Movie'

**WHAT:** The "Peanuts" comic strip gang takes to the big screen, with Charlie Brown and Snoopy each pursuing a heroic quest.

**WHERE PLAYING:** Carmike-Dupont, Carmike-Jefferson Pointe, Cinema Grill, Coldwater, Huntington 7, NCG Cinemas-Auburn, Strand in Kendallville

**RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 33 minutes

**RATING:** G

3 stars out of 4 (The Associated Press rating)

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