



## Cavorting canine entices Sheridan audiences

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN

As depicted in Charles Shultz's comic strip, Charlie Brown is always a loser — a pint-sized bungler of monumental proportions.

And as depicted in Sheridan College's cabaret-style production of the musical comedy adaptation *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, the poulitice of the playground loses once again.

Charlie (Dan Pawlick) was upstaged by his dog Snoopy (Gary McLeod).

Pawlick, a retail fashion student who was standing in for David Stoddard (in bed with pneumonia) handled the lead well considering his last minute notice.

But McLeod, a Media Arts student, simply had the choicest lines and numbers. He enticed three full houses in Oakville as the alternately preening and brooding pup.

John Kernaghan is staff writer at the Mississauga Times.

McLeod's elasticized features exploited every mood from coyness to bawdiness as he gamboled through a series of skits.

Best of the numbers was a vaudeville turn replete with top hat and cane that regaled the joys of supper. It reminded one of a campy Fred Astaire extolling the virtues of Alpo.

Pawlick, as Charlie, was believable as the wide-eyed innocent blustered by Lucy (Mary Trainor). Ms.

## Christmas concert first of special events

Music aficionados can now look forward to special Sheridan student play productions, concerts, solos and other musical events on campus next year—beginning with a gala Christmas concert.

Rod Maxwell, the same person who directed the popular *Charlie Brown* musical production this year, will be music director and co-ordinator for the new two-year Media Arts elective in Music Theatre.

Maxwell, who is highly-experienced in all facets of stage, drama and music, will get the elective underway this September. He says students will receive extensive training in the art and craft of contemporary music theatre with emphasis on individual vocal training.

Successful students may continue post graduate musical studies in one of several music or opera schools or they may enter the field directly.

Admission standards are the same as for other Sheridan programs. However, during a personal interview, students will be asked to present a vocal and reading audition and take a written music skills test. Auditions are scheduled for May and June.



Trainor, who was gussied up like a re-incarnated Shirley Temple, provided fine contrast. She could be so sweet as to be sickly and as sharp as the strike of an asp.

Linus (Kevin Kingston) was consistent and trouped out one masterful number as he bumped and ground his way through a burlesque routine, *My Blanket and Me*, with his famous comforter.

Schroder (Gary Ostrom) and Patty (Mary Picot) were also both effective.

Main thrust of the all-college produced and directed performance, once the laughter had died away, was typical of Shultz's penchant for exposing adult faux pas through the medium of the playground.

The sandbox becomes an extended metaphor for adult play fields in business, love, sports, etc.

The addition of the cabaret style, with wine and cheese, makes it all that more enjoyable.

Performances also drew capacity crowds at Sheridan's Brampton campus, School of Design and the Credit Valley School of Nursing in Mississauga.

Lighting for the *Charlie Brown* play production was the result of technological ingenuity and design at Sheridan.

Roy Adams, technology instructor at the Brampton campus, along with students Al Reaburn, Ray Higgins and Dave Holden, created and worked on the unique lighting structure — a device so unusual Sheridan is thinking of patenting it.

The common way of controlling lighting is to use motors, wheels, mechanical switches and cams; all things that "whirr around". But what they used was solid state electronic circuitry, composed of transistors, resistors, and capacitors with no moving parts.

This device was incorporated in the marquee of flashing lights — an arching structure 24 feet wide by 8 feet high.

Snoopy's bowl, for instance had "all the magic of electronics", so that when it was picked up, the bowl flashed brilliantly.

A tree (made from tinker toys) became illuminated at a dramatic juncture in the play. Just as *Charlie Brown* looked at it and mused that nothing was more permanent or solid than a tree, a concealed push-button activated a current and one of the large toy spoons on the tree fell off.

Roy Adams terms the device an "interesting breakthrough". The only thing now is to determine if it really is a new and unique method before application is made for a patent.



## Exit The King

What the students learned in the Theatre Production class was implemented on stage to produce "Exit The King", the third major student production this year at Sheridan.

Eugene Ionesco's one-act comedy-drama dealing with the acceptance of death, was performed for the public over a two-week period—eight evening performances and two matinees.

Not only were students responsible for acting, but organized and set up lighting, set, make-up, props and stage directing.