

# American MASTERS

**thirteen**  
WNET NEW YORK

450 West 33rd Street  
New York, NY 10001-2605  
thirteen.org

## press information



**PBS**

AMERICAN MASTERS  
is produced for PBS  
by Thirteen/WNET  
New York

### Fact Sheet

#### AMERICAN MASTERS Good Ol' Charles Schulz

*Below are some fun facts about the Peanuts cartoon. The intertwined life and art of the strip's creator are thoroughly explored in **AMERICAN MASTERS Good Ol' Charles Schulz**, which premieres Monday, October 29 at 9 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings).*

- For the television specials, director Bill Melendez created the voices of adults (“wa-wa-wa”) on a trombone, using a plunger as a mute.
- In the Sunday strips of May 16 and 23, 1954, you can actually see grown-ups – or at least their legs – surrounding Lucy and Charlie Brown at a golf tournament Lucy has entered. Schulz later expressed regret at showing adults even in this limited fashion.
- Snoopy’s siblings from the Daisy Hill Puppy Farm are Spike, with the mustache, from a desert outside of Needles, California; Belle, his only sister; Marbles, “the smart one,” a spotted beagle; Olaf, aka “Ugly Olaf,” a much fuller-bodied beagle; and Andy, the fuzzy-haired sibling.
- Charlie Brown’s dad works as a barber, just as Schulz’s own father did.
- Generally, the signs on Lucy’s psychiatry booth read: “Psychiatric Help 5¢” and “The Doctor Is In,” but the cost of psychiatric help rose as high as 47 cents.
- In April 1960, the world first learned that “happiness is a warm puppy.” Fewer people remember that in October of that year, Snoopy rejected another “warm-puppy” hug from Lucy, declaring that “My mother didn’t raise me to be a heating pad.” In October 1964, Linus hugged Snoopy and then asked “What’s so happy about a warm puppy?”
- The girl “with the naturally curly hair” is known as Frieda.
- The dancing girls featured in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* are twin sisters named “Three” and “Four,” who were characters from the daily *Peanuts* in the 1960s. They had an older brother named “Five.” In the strip’s story line, their father names them with numbers in protest of society’s ever-growing trend of reducing human lives to statistics. Their last name is actually 95742, the family’s zip code. Most have deduced that this was a bit of Schulz’s social commentary. The three characters were seldom seen after the early ’70s.
- Between 1990 and 1991, Charlie Brown had a girlfriend. He met Peggy Jean at summer camp and was so enamored (and extremely nervous), that he introduced himself as

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“Brownie Charles,” the name by which she would know him until she moved away. Throughout their relationship, he was continually torn between Peggy Jean and his affection for the Little Red-Haired Girl.

- If you purely follow the strip (which is the preferred interpretation of the story lines by most *Peanuts* purists), the Little Red-Haired Girl is never given a name. Actually, she’s never even seen in the strip. The Little Red-Haired Girl did appear in one of the *Peanuts* TV specials (*It’s Your First Kiss, Charlie Brown*, 1977), in which she was called “Heather.” But in that instance, the creative decisions regarding her appearance were decided by the show’s animators, not Schulz.
- The names of the teachers in *Peanuts* are Mrs. Donovan, mentioned as Charlie Brown’s teacher; Miss Othmar, later Mrs. Hagemeyer, Linus’s favorite teacher; Miss Halverson, Linus’s new teacher, after Miss Othmar is fired during a strike (she later reappears, sending Miss Halverson into comic-strip limbo); and Miss Swanson, mentioned as Peppermint Patty’s teacher. Peppermint Patty also had another teacher, named Miss Tenure, who most notably accused her of stealing a box of gold stars from her desk.
- By Schulz’s wishes, no new *Peanuts* strips will ever be drawn and published. There are new animated specials in development, but the story lines will be based entirely on themes and dialogue from the strip’s history. The strips still published in daily newspaper and on the [www.Snoopy.com](http://www.Snoopy.com) web site are reprints from the nearly 50-year/18,000 strip history of *Peanuts*.

*Source: Charles M. Schulz Museum and Lumiere Productions.*

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Press Contacts:

**Donna Williams**  
Thirteen/WNET New York  
212.560.8030  
[williamsd@thirteen.org](mailto:williamsd@thirteen.org)

**Caroline Oman**  
Thirteen/WNET New York  
212.560.3057  
[oman@thirteen.org](mailto:oman@thirteen.org)

**Debra Falk**  
Thirteen/WNET New York  
212.560.3013  
[falk@thirteen.org](mailto:falk@thirteen.org)