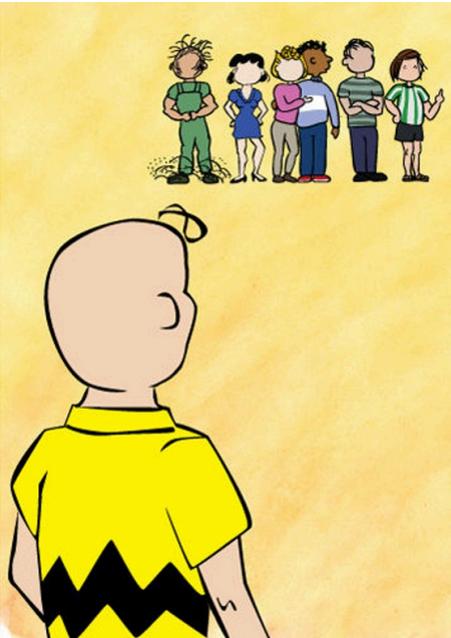




Preview / Theater

### You're a Good, Angsty Teen, Charlie Brown: *Dog Sees God* at Boxcar

Posted By Neha Talreja on Wed, Aug 8, 2012 at 11:00 AM



Linus van Pelt, Charlie Brown's best friend in **Charles M. Schulz's** beloved *Peanuts* comic, usually played the role of the theologian amongst the gang, often reflecting Schulz's own faith by quoting from the Gospels. In Bert V. Royal's play *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, a teenaged Linus, "Van," (because in general writers seem to think a nickname is the marker of freer teenage affectations, and to avoid licensing issues, I imagine), is still quite the philosopher, except now he's a pseudo-Buddhist stoner with brilliant insights like: "My point is, Chuck B., that life -- it does go on."

Van might have grown up with a developed sense of zen but Charlie Brown ("CB") is still as cynical, doubtful, and insecure as Schulz's original character -- and why shouldn't he be, his beloved beagle Snoopy had to be put down after contracting rabies, violently murdering Woodstock, and attacking CB himself. *Good grief.*

Royal's play essentially sounds like *Degrassi: The Next Generation* tied to a twisted *Rugrats: All Grown Up!* concept. The *Peanuts* kids went from what we have called "**the endless endlessness of the boring misery of childhood**" right into the dramas of every teen after-school special, like drugs, sex, homophobia, and mental illness. The play had an Off-Broadway run back in 2005 with a cast of up-and-coming TV actors that brought a good dose of authentic teen angst; this San Francisco production also features young actors and brings the Boxcar's unique homegrown style to the dark comedy.

***Dog Sees God*** premieres Wednesday, August 8 at 8 p.m. (and continues Wed-Sat until August 25) at the Boxcar Playhouse, 505 Natoma (at Sixth St.). Admission is \$16.