

## Chapter 1 : A Charlie Brown Christmas (TV Movie) - IMDb

*Charlie Brown: [Charlie Brown and Linus stop at a wall on their trip to the pond for ice skating] I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy.*

Like Charlie Brown himself, the flaws—scratchy voice recordings, rushed animation—have proven endearing. Since the debut of Peanuts in 1950, Charles Schulz and United Press Syndicate which distributed the comic strip had gotten a steady stream of offers to adapt the characters for film and television; the artist was also directly petitioned by young readers, who would write Schulz asking when Snoopy would come to some kind of animated life. Schulz capitulated to a full-length special based on the professional reputations of his two collaborators. When Coke executives got a look at the Schulz documentary and caught Charlie Brown on the April cover of Time, they inquired about the possibility of sponsoring an hour-long animated holiday special. Melendez felt the short lead time—only six months—made that impossible. Instead, he proposed a half-hour, but had no idea how much the show should be budgeted for; when he called colleague Bill Hanna of Hanna-Barbera fame for advice, Hanna refused to give out any trade secrets. Mendelson got the hint. The early Peanuts specials made use of both untrained kids and professional actors: Peter Robbins as Charlie Brown and Christopher Shea as Linus were working child performers, while the rest of the cast consisted of "regular" kids coached by Melendez in the studio. Its round shape made it difficult to depict Charlie turning around; as with most of the characters, his arms were too tiny to scratch his head. Careful or repeated viewings of the special reveal a continuity error: Mendelson recently told USA Today that an executive from McCann-Erikson—the ad agency behind Coke—paid him an impromptu visit while he was midway through production. After toiling on the special for six months, Melendez and Mendelson screened it for CBS executives just three weeks before it was set to air. The mood in the room was less than enthusiastic: That amounted to roughly 15 million people, behind only Bonanza. Aluminum Christmas trees were marketed beginning in 1950 and enjoyed fairly strong sales by eliminating pesky needles and tree sap. But the annual airings of A Charlie Brown Christmas swayed public thinking: In the special, Charlie Brown refuses to get a fake tree. Viewers began to do the same, and the product was virtually phased out by 1965. Up until then, anyone staging a live-action rendition of A Charlie Brown Christmas for their local school or theater had one thing in common: Tams-Witmark fields licensing requests for the play, which includes permission to perform original songs and advertise with the Peanuts characters—Snoopy costume not included. Peter Robbins continued voicing Charlie Brown until he turned 13 years old, at which point puberty prohibited him from continuing. In November 1967, the 17-year-old Robbins pleaded guilty to making criminal threats against a mobile home park manager and a sheriff. According to CBS News, the troubled former actor claimed that schizophrenia and bipolar disorder led him to make the threats. He was sentenced to four years and eight months in prison.

## Chapter 2 : A Charlie Brown Christmas TV Listings, TV Schedule and Episode Guide | TV Guide

*A Charlie Brown Christmas is a animated television special based on the comic strip Peanuts, by Charles M. Schulz. It was written and directed by Bill Melendez, the program made its debut on CBS on December 9,*

Development[ edit ] By the early s, Charles M. Schulz, an avid baseball fan, recognized Mendelson from his documentary on ballplayer Willie Mays , A Man Named Mays, and invited him to his home in Sebastopol, California , to discuss the project. Mendelson wanted to feature roughly "one or two" minutes of animation, and Schulz suggested animator Bill Melendez, with whom he collaborated some years before on a spot for the Ford Motor Company. Mendelson assured him "without complete confidence in his statements" that this would be no problem. Following this, A Charlie Brown Christmas entered production. His goal for the special was to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. His storyboard contained six panels for each shot, spanning a combined eighty or-so pages. Later specials would introduce an offscreen teacher; her lines are eschewed for the sound of a trombone as the team behind the specials found it humorous. Casting for Charlie Brown proved most difficult, as it required both good acting skills but also the ability to appear nonchalant. Too young to read, the producers had to give her one line at a time to recite. Nevertheless, the recording of A Charlie Brown Christmas was completed in one day. There are 13, drawings in the special, with 12 frames per second to create the illusion of movement. The character of Snoopy, however, proved the exception to the rule. The jazz portions were created by the Vince Guaraldi Trio. "The Herald Angels Sing". They often ran late into the night, resulting in angry parents, some who forbade their children from returning; consequently, numerous new children were present at each session. Mendelson and Guaraldi disagreed, desiring the "kids to sound like kids"; they used a slightly off-key version of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" in the final cut. Guaraldi brought in bassist Fred Marshall and drummer Jerry Granelli to record the music, and spent time later re-recording earlier tracks, including covers of "The Christmas Song" and "Greensleeves. Firth and Distil are noted as performers on a studio-session report Guaraldi filed for the American Federation of Musicians. The Hollywood Reporter deemed the show "delightfully novel and amusing," while the Weekly Variety dubbed it "fascinating and haunting. The original broadcasts included references to the sponsor, Coca-Cola. Later subsequent broadcasts of the special also had some scenes, animation, including sound effects being redone for correction. This documentary has been released as a special feature on the DVD and Blu-ray editions of the special. In , the special was released for a limited time on VHS through Shell Oil for sale at their gas stations. In September it was released on DVD. Bonus features include a restored version of Christmastime Again and a new documentary titled "A Christmas Miracle: On October 6, , it was released in high definition Blu-ray Disc from Warner in remastered Dolby 5. In December , a 50th anniversary 2-DVD set was released. Within the scope of future Peanuts specials, it established their style, combining thoughtful themes, jazzy scores, and simple animation. It has been performed at hundreds of schools, churches and community theatres. Tree The Charlie Brown Christmas Tree [ edit ] Charlie Brown left and Linus right with the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree The popularity of the special practically eliminated the popularity of the aluminum Christmas tree , which was a fad from to , when the special portrayed it negatively. By , just two years after the special first aired, they were no longer being regularly manufactured. A model of the tree is offered by various retailers. Other Christmas specials[ edit ] Three lesser-known Christmas specials were produced decades after the original. This special was 30 minutes in length with commercials and aired on CBS. This special is a slightly shorter, with a running time of 20 minutes with commercials and debuted on ABC. It is available on DVD.

## Chapter 3 : A Charlie Brown Christmas - Wikipedia

*A Charlie Brown Christmas was executive-produced by Lee Mendelson and created and written by Charles M. Schulz. Bill Melendez is the producer and director, and Vince Guaraldi is the music composer.*

### Chapter 4 : 14 Fun Facts About A Charlie Brown Christmas | Mental Floss

*Everyone's favorite holiday classic comes to life in the all-new touring production A Charlie Brown Christmas Live on Stage!*

### Chapter 5 : A Charlie Brown Christmas Live On Stage! | Cincinnati Arts

*If "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is part of your Christmas memories, then a CD of the music is definitely worth owning. It contains many of the full versions of the music from the video (from which, parts were plucked to use in the video), plus some songs that were not on the video, but may be appealing since Vince Guaraldi plays them.*

### Chapter 6 : A Charlie Brown Christmas | Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, San Antonio, Texas

*Perennial sad sack Charlie Brown is bummed out, and is having a hard time getting into the spirit of Christmas, especially with the growing focus on commercialism.*

### Chapter 7 : A Charlie Brown Christmas Live

*A Charlie Brown Christmas - Christmas Time Is Here [Vocal Version] - Duration: ChristmasSpecter , views. Frosty The Snowman Sing Along Songs - Duration:*

### Chapter 8 : A Charlie Brown Christmas - Tuesday, December 11 - The Orpheum Theater

*A Charles Brown Christmas - St. Louis Loved the play, My grandkids 6 and 8, really enjoyed it. My one big complaint is there is no reason for an intermission when the play is only a little over an hour.*

### Chapter 9 : A Charlie Brown Christmas () - Rotten Tomatoes

*In the Emmy and Peabody-winning animated cartoon from , the gang mounts a holiday pageant as Charlie Brown bemoans Yuletide commercialism.*