

The Charlie Brown Turkey Lurkey Brechtian Queer Thanksgiving Special

a small play

by Kev Berry

THE CHARLIE BROWN TURKEY LURKEY BRECHTIAN QUEER THANKSGIVING SPECIAL was commissioned and first produced by UglyRhino Productions (Nicole Rosner + Danny Sharron, Co-Artistic Directors; Bryce Norbitz, Executive Producer) as a part of their monthly TinyRhino Series at Littlefield in Brooklyn, New York, on November 24, 2015. It was directed by Emily Moler. The production manager was Catherine DiGirolamo. The production stage manager was Arysbell's Figuerado. The cast was as follows:

SNOOPY.....Jeffrey Robb
LUCINDA.....Alex Chernin
CHARLES.....James Zebooker
HEAD VOICES/WOODSTOCK.....Alexandra Tse
PATRICIA.....Teresa Langford
LINUS.....Christian Eble

Who

A chorus of queers
They perform
And they look like the cast of the Today Show
When they dressed up like post-apocalyptic Peanuts characters
It's terrifying and also very beautiful

Where

An empty stage
A metaphorical table
There is a large pot of gravy thick and brown

When

Turkey Lurkey Time

Note

All stage directions in **bold** are spoken into a microphone by the performer who plays Snoopy

With apologies to Brecht and Schulz and hooks and a big fuck you to Al Roker
And thanks to Kate Graney for her help deciding which feminist scholar to make fun of
Dedicated with love to my sister Bridget and to Colin Moore in London on his birthday
And as always, for Mom
-kb

The houselights do not go down
They enter

SNOOPY

Lights up

THE KIDS

We are the Peanuts

The Peanuts

They do the Peanuts dance in silence
It is fucked up
10 intense seconds of the dance

SNOOPY

They stop dancing and we see Lucinda and Charles and she has a football

LUCINDA

Charles Brown oh Charles Brown come on Charles I'll hold the ball and you kick it

CHARLES

Hold it ha you'll pull it away and I'll fall on my back and kill myself

HEAD VOICES

You should kill yourself Charles

End it all

LUCINDA

Because things are the way they are things will not stay the way they are

HEAD VOICES

Obviously Charles

SNOOPY

The voices in Charles' head say and Charles feels stupid

LUCINDA

It's a tradition Charles you must kick the ball

HEAD VOICES

It's hardly a tradition

SNOOPY

The same voices in Charles' head

CHARLES

It's hardly a tradition

SNOOPY

Charles says

CHARLES

Thanksgiving is a holiday with genocidal roots no thank you nope no way

HEAD VOICES

Do it Charles

Do it Charles

SNOOPY

Do it Charles

CHARLES

This time I'm gonna kick that football clear to the moon

SNOOPY

Charles charges to kick Lucinda pulls the ball away and Charles falls on his back

LUCINDA

People remain what they are even if their faces fall apart Charles

She laughs maniacally

SNOOPY

She laughs maniacally with an undertone of pain because she is in love with Charles Brown

HEAD VOICES

Charles don't you know anything

DON'T YOU

CHARLES

Holidays always depress me and now we've got another holiday to worry about it seems Thanksgiving Day is upon us

SNOOPY

Charles Brown suffers from crippling anxiety

LUCINDA

The phone rings

A turkey gobbles loudly
One of the queers gobbles and queers the patriarchy

SNOOPY

One of the queers gobbles and queers the patriarchy

LINUS

Charles answers the phone it's the Closet Dyke

PATRICIA

Hey Chuck what's up ya fuckin cunt

SNOOPY

Patricia a white lesbian youth still deep in the closet

CHARLES

Hey Pat thanks yeah just getting ready for Thanksgiving dinner

HEAD VOICES

You sound like a stupid fuck talking on the phone like a stupid fuck fuck

CHARLES

Fuck you head voice

PATRICIA

What you say Chuck you're not hearing voices like some freak are you

CHARLES

Nothing Pat no I'm not I'm not

PATRICIA

Do you kinda miss me Chuck that's okay Chuck I know you probably can't talk because someone's listening we'll keep these intimate things to ourselves okay Chuck listen I really have a treat for you my dad's been called out of town and he said I could come over and share Thanksgiving with you Chuck and we can talk about how sexist the Republicans are I don't mind inviting myself over because I know you kinda like me but we all know how much I like pussy okay see ya soon you sly devil by the way that was a josh I'm just joshin I don't like pussy what do you think I'm some sort of queer

SNOOPY

Charles hangs up the phone and sighs and the phone immediately rings again

A turkey gobbles loudly
One of the queers gobbles and queers the patriarchy

CHARLES

Hello

PATRICIA

Hi Chuck I have even greater news remember Marcella great fuckin gal and her eyes look like eggs and she has no pupils or irises fuckin weird anyway I just talked to her and she would kind of like to see you again so you can count on two for dinner Chuck this will be okay with your folks won't it Chuck don't worry we won't make any problems we'll help clear up the dishes and I'll even show you my tits just save me a drumstick okay see ya Chuck just joshin I'm not showing you my tits I'm six years old Chuck

SNOOPY

Charles hangs up the phone and sighs and the phone immediately rings again

A turkey gobbles loudly
One of the queers gobbles and queers the patriarchy

PATRICIA

Hey guess who just walked in over here it's Frank great fuckin kid and his hair is just so tall and he kinda walks with a limp like a poor person anyway I told him about the big turkey party you're having and he's sure his folks would let him come and I couldn't say no because I'm not an ableist and I don't hate men hey Chuck this is gonna be the biggest bash of the year just joshin I don't see disability or gender Chuck

SNOOPY

Charles hangs up the phone

CHARLES

Oh brother

SNOOPY

Linus comes out of the closet

LINUS

Charles when was the last time you were in that closet it's comforting like a uterus

CHARLES

Jesus Linus

LINUS

What Charles

CHARLES

Fuckin scared me

LINUS

Sorry

CHARLES

We have a problem Linus

LINUS

What problem

CHARLES

Pat is coming over

SNOOPY

Linus is a homophobe

LINUS

Ah Christ I hate her something about her isn't right she's always talking about eating pussy it ain't right

SNOOPY

But only speaks about it in euphemism

LINUS

It ain't right

CHARLES

Well she's coming over and I can't cook and I'm supposed to be going to my grandmother's for dinner with my family

HEAD VOICES

Charles you're a terrible cook

CHARLES

Shut the fuck UP head voices

LINUS

You okay

CHARLES

I'm fine Linus

LINUS

Did you explain to Patricia you won't be home

CHARLES

You can't explain anything to Pat because you never get to say anything without her deconstructing it and calling you a sexist piggy

LINUS

Is something I'm doing triggering your anxiety please let me know and I'll be more

CHARLES

All I can cook is some cereal and maybe some toast

LINUS

I have a plan Charles the solution is simple

SNOOPY

The solution is simple

LINUS

Two dinners

CHARLES

Two dinners two dinners is not a solution you cunt

LINUS

Look Charles I'm not a cunt I'm just trying to help you here while also not triggering

CHARLES

How is two dinners helpful

LINUS

You have one for Dick Van Dyke and then go to Bwah Bwah Grandma's

CHARLES

What

LINUS

We have two dinners one for Dick Van Dyke and one at Bwah Bwah Grandma's

CHARLES

Yes and

LINUS

And that way we keep Patricia happy and keep her radical feminist army happy with one dinner and then you go to Grandma's with your family for the second one

CHARLES

I can't cook

LINUS

Snoopy will cook

SNOOPY

Snoopy walks in and Snoopy is a fucking ugly dog and I am Snoopy I am Snoopy

CHARLES

Jesus Snoopy you have to knock before you creep in

LINUS

Fucking ugly dog

CHARLES

Hey watch it Linus he may be fucking ugly but he's mine

SNOOPY

Charles says in his head but out loud he says

CHARLES

...

LINUS

Yeah this dog can definitely cook

Vince Guaraldi music

The chorus set up and cook the backyard feast

All put on Pilgrim clothing maybe

The lights dim and music cuts

Flashback

THE PILGRIMS

Land ho

Land ho did you hear that dead baby Oceanus

Land ho we'll finally be able to bury your bones

Land ho since we had to eat your flesh because we were so hungry

Land ho yes hungry on the Mayflower

Land ho this is not what I expected the West Indies to look like

Land ho it's freezing here

Land ho I was expecting to tan

Land ho

Back in the present

SNOOPY

Patricia shows up with Frank and Marcella in tow

PATRICIA

Happy Thanksgiving Chuck it's me and Frank and Marcella

SNOOPY

But we don't see them since her white upperclass feminism has made them invisible through the prism of difference and then I Snoopy shoot a musket in to the air

CHARLES

Jesus Christ Snoopy what the fuck

SNOOPY

Charles's anxiety is at an all time high

LINUS

Shall we pray

SNOOPY

Linus leads them in a non-denominational prayer and conversation begins as food is served

PATRICIA

God Lucinda your feminism is so outdated you just quoted Betty Friedan haven't you read bell hooks she says Friedan's famous phrase the problem that has no name often quoted to describe the condition of women in this society actually referred to the plight of a select group of college-educated middle- and upper-class married white women housewives bored with leisure with the home with children with buying products who wanted more out of life Betty Friedan is a fuckin MESS Lucinda educate yourself

LUCINDA

Mixing one's wines may be a mistake but old and new wisdom mix admirably Patricia and the world of knowledge takes a crazy turn when teachers themselves are taught to learn especially when you misquote and misinterpret feminist scholar bell hooks so that her words fit into your own petty and misguided argument

SNOOPY

The tension is so thick you could cut it with a butter knife and Lucinda whispers

LUCINDA

I'm in love with Charles Brown

SNOOPY

I'm in love with Charles Brown but before anyone hears what she's said Patricia slams down her virgin mai tai and says

PATRICIA

Fuck Charles what is this shit

CHARLES

Dinner Pat

PATRICIA

Dinner dinner are you shitting me ice cream and pretzels and jelly beans

CHARLES

Yes Pat it was the best I could

PATRICIA

What are we you fucktoy what are we kindergarteners

SNOOPY

They are actually

CHARLES

Good grief thanks for coming

SNOOPY

Charles exits dejectedly head aimed at his feet

The actor playing Charles does not exit

PATRICIA

And popcorn are you fucking me what kind of a Thanksgiving dinner is this where's the turkey mashed potatoes cranberry sauce pumpkin pie are you shitting on my dick toast with butter what is this a fucking sick day off from school and I'm on the couch watching Bob Barker inhale and exhale one breath at a time as he ekes his way towards a public televised death during the Showcase Showdown fucking horseshit how am I supposed to feel self-satisfied as a white feminist on Thanksgiving without fucking turkey

SNOOPY

Marcella tries to point out that Patricia invited herself and Frank says she should apologize but Patricia doesn't hear them because she's a Western white feminist but then she leans into an idea of her very own

PATRICIA

I should go apologize shouldn't I

LUCINDA

Probably not a bad idea

PATRICIA

Pass the gravy will ya God why can't I act right outside of eating pussy

SNOOPY

Lucinda passive-aggressively passes the gravy

LUCINDA

You should be grateful

PATRICIA

What's that Lucinda

LUCINDA

You should be grateful to Charles for hosting this meal

PATRICIA

Oh I'm grateful you want to know what I'm grateful for you want to know what I'm fucking grateful for huh

LUCINDA

Yeah

PATRICIA

I'm fucking grateful for Drano

LUCINDA

What

PATRICIA

I'm fucking grateful for fucking Drano the stuff you pour in your sink when it's clogged

LUCINDA

Oh Drano like Drain-oh

PATRICIA

Yeah

LUCINDA

Okay

SNOOPY

There is no further conversation about Drano

PATRICIA

I should go apologize to him shouldn't I I don't feel bad but politics ya know

LUCINDA

Yeah

SNOOPY

Charles is in the kitchen

HEAD VOICES

Charles you should kill yourself

You're fucking ugly Charles

You're fucking fat too

Fuck you Charles

Your head is so fucking round like a fucking baseball

CHARLES

FUCK YOU HEAD VOICES

PATRICIA

Chuck you okay

CHARLES

I'm fine Pat do you need something

PATRICIA

Just wanted to say sorry

CHARLES

It's cool

PATRICIA

You sure

CHARLES

Yeah we're kindergarteners nothing is hard

PATRICIA

Yeah sorry I called you a retard too

CHARLES

It's okay it's fucked but it's okay because I'm not a retard

PATRICIA

Yeah that's why it's okay

CHARLES

Yeah wait what

PATRICIA

Just shake my hand Chuck

They shake hands and hold for a sec

Let's not play lovers' games Chuck you're holding my hand Chuck you sly dog

CHARLES

The other day Lucinda told me that one forgets too easily the difference between a man and his image, and that there is none between the sound of his voice on the screen and in real life

PATRICIA

I'm not quite sure what that means

CHARLES

I'm not either I was hoping you could help

PATRICIA

Can I tell you a secret

CHARLES

Yeah

PATRICIA

I huff paint to deal with the pain

LUCINDA

The phone rings

A turkey gobbles loudly

One of the queers gobbles and queers the patriarchy

CHARLES

Hello oh hi Grandma

All scream bwah-bwahs and it lasts too long

Whoa Grandma calm down what's wrong what time is it

SNOOPY

The clock strikes four

CHARLES

Oh shit I'm sorry Grandma I don't know if I'll make it I have all my friends here

All scream bwah-bwahs and it lasts too long

Half an hour okay half an hour

All scream bwah-bwahs and it lasts too long

I can really I can oh thank you Grandma great see you soon

All scream bwah-bwahs and it lasts too long

"Turkey Lurkey Time" from *Promises Promises* begins to play

One of them begins to do the Michael Bennett choreography

This goes unacknowledged

Guys I have a solution to your problems

PATRICIA

Societal reconstruction

CHARLES

No Pat I'm not talking about racism and sexism we can't fix those we're in kindergarten
I'm talking about this genocide holiday feast

PATRICIA

Fucking wasting my time then

CHARLES

My Grandma says

All scream bwah-bwahs and it lasts too long

Someone else joins in doing the Bennett

Yes my Grandma says we can all go to her house for dinner

THE KIDS MINUS CHARLES

We can

We can yes

Happy Thanksgiving Charles Brown

Happy Thanksgiving Charles Brown

CHARLES joins in

Happy Thanksgiving Charles Brown

SNOOPY

Charles feels proud for a moment but then

HEAD VOICES

They're only in it for the food and tomorrow you'll just be back to being a fat deformed loser

CHARLES

FUCK YOU HEAD VOICES

SNOOPY

Snoopy shoots a gun into the air

All seamlessly fall into the Bennett choreo
They reach the Jersey Turnpike section and nail it
Instead of returning to the Bennett they do the Peanuts dance

SNOOPY

The music cuts and they become still

The music cuts and they become still

They climb into the car and begin to sing

They sing "Over the River and Through the Woods"

CHARLES

There's only one problem with that

THE KIDS

What's that Charles

CHARLES

My grandmother lives in a condominium built on top of an old Iroquois graveyard

SNOOPY

Blackout

After a long beat
Blackout
End of play