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Exploring a Beloved *Peanuts* Character
New Exhibition at the Charles M. Schulz Museum
Behind Peanuts: Pigpen
July 27, 2017 through January 14, 2018



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(Santa Rosa, CA) Described by Charles M. Schulz himself as “a human soil bank who raises a cloud of dust on a perfectly clean street, and passes out gumdrops that are invariably black,” Pigpen, the boy with his own perpetual cloud of dust, proved to be one of the most beloved characters in the comic strip’s history. He inspired chuckles and grins from his introduction to the *Peanuts* strip on July 13, 1954 to his final appearance in 1999. **The Charles M. Schulz Museum’s new exhibition, *Behind Peanuts: Pigpen*, on view July 27 through January 14,**

2301 Hardies Lane • Santa Rosa, CA 95403 U.S.A. • 707.579.4452 • Fax 707.579.4436
www.SchulzMuseum.org

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2018, explores this treasured character, featured in just over 100 of the 17,897 *Peanuts* comic strips.

Schulz may have been initially inspired to create Pigpen after visiting a friend's home in the early 1950s. One of the kids in the family came into the house looking very disheveled after a day of playing outside, and the parent's first reaction was to call the child a "pigpen." Schulz also found additional inspiration for many of Pigpen's storylines from his own son, Craig Schulz, who was always outdoors and seemed to be continually covered in dirt.

Pigpen is the kid in the *Peanuts* Gang who is the most at ease with himself. Charlie Brown is wishy washy, Lucy is a fussy budget, and Linus relies on the comforts of his security blanket. While the other characters deal daily with their own emotional quirks and problems, Pigpen endeared himself to readers as he walked serenely through life unhindered by self-doubt and oblivious to the opinions of others – with his cloud of dust in tow.



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IMAGES

If you would like any of the images in this release to print in a publication, contact Tracey Pugh at tracey@schulzmuseum.org or (707) 284-1268.

ABOUT THE CHARLES M. SCHULZ MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER

The Charles M. Schulz Museum opened in August 2002 to fulfill its mission of preserving, displaying, and interpreting the art of Charles M. Schulz. The museum carries out this mission through changing exhibitions and programming that: build an understanding of cartoonists and cartoon art; illustrate the scope of Schulz's multi-faceted career; communicate the stories, inspirations and influences of Charles Schulz; and celebrate the life of Charles Schulz and the *Peanuts* characters.

LOCATION

The Charles M. Schulz Museum is located 50 minutes north of San Francisco by car on Highway 101. The Museum is located at 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa, California, 95403.

HOURS

Weekdays Monday thru Friday (except Tuesdays*) 11am – 5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm

Closed Tuesdays*

*Open every day throughout the summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

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ADMISSION FEES

Free – Museum Members, Children 3 and under

\$12.00 – Adults

\$8.00 – Seniors 62 and over with ID

\$5.00 – Children 4-18, college students with valid I.D. card

For more information consult the Museum web site: schulzmuseum.org

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