Schools stage classic

Musical tells of frontier life

By Suzanne Robson

THE romantic side of frontier America will be given a dose of 21st century charm when Preston’s Parade College takes to the stage this month.

The students along with female performers from Northcote’s Santa Maria College are gearing up to perform hit musical Oklahoma.

The box-office smash, first performed in 1943, tells the tale of cowboy Curly McLain and his romance with farm girl Laurey Williams.

Director Anthony Ventura, a teacher at Parade College, said the school selected the musical because it promised to “deliver something for all, with themes of love, drama and a side of parody”.

“It’s very much a family show with famous songs like I Can’t Say No, Oh, What A Beautiful Morning and Make A New Day,” Ventura said.

Lead performer Nicholas Kyriacou, 16, from Preston said playing Curly would be the biggest singing role he had ever had.

Kyriacou, who has performed in musicals for the last three years, said it was a thrill to study what was considered the first modern musical.

“The music is really great, and there is a lot of dance numbers,” he said.

“It covers all the aspects of the musical theatre: song, dance and story and it combines all those elements well.”

The avid performer said he was introduced to musical theatre through school productions which he described as “a great opportunity to perform and get inspired”.

The Year 11 student said those involved in the production, aged from 12 to 17, participated in all components of the performance including costumes and marketing.

“(People) should come along to support the youth in the community and to check out what they have to offer and what the show has to offer which overall is a very entertaining experience,” he said.

Further performances will be held 7.30pm, July 15-17, at Parade’s Rivergum Theatre, 1436 Plenty Rd, Bundoora.

There will also be a 2pm matinee performance on July 17.

Tickets are available online parade.vic.edu.au

What’s on

Christmas in July

Celebrate with a ballroom dance at 7pm on July 27 at St Luke’s Hall, 1a David St, Lalor. Details 0418 319 415.

Sacred chanting

Kirtan meditation and sacred chanting group at Thornbury Women’s Neighbourhood House, 7-8pm July 16. Cost $8. Details 9480 0466.

Craft market

Locally crafted items from new and emerging designers at Made N Thornbury, 4-7pm Friday, July 16 at 99 Leinstor Grove, Thornbury. Details 9480 0466.

Art show

Entries open for MusArt Festival at Wales St Primary School, Thornbury on September 11. Details 0419 560 795.

Health management