



Quakers Hill High School In the Media 2010



Publication: Blacktown Advocate Date: 9th of June Year: 2010 Focus: The Mikado

Yum-Yum experience



Students at Quakers Hill High School have their own take on the classic *Mikado*.

Picture: ISABELLA LETTINI

BRYN KAY

JUST as the picture suggests, Quakers Hill High School has put a lot of effort into its latest stage production to ensure it is the biggest in the school's history.

The school is in the final stages of the production, a rendition of Arthur Sullivan and W. S. Gilbert's classic, *The Mikado*.

Originally a comic opera created in 1885, the school's version involved 80 cast members and 120 students.

But for those familiar with *The Mikado*, they will be pleasantly surprised to

see that this production is not a carbon-copy of the original. Director Deborah Franco has "played around with the script to make it more contemporary."

The story is told through Sydney-based noodle bar owner, Ok-Ok who has escaped from Japan disguised as a Chinese man and is now living in Sydney.

Student Lotus Rana, 13, has one of the lead roles as Yum-Yum, a character torn between two lovers.

She said working on *The Mikado* had helped improve her confidence.

Christopher Lehmann, 15, plays Ko-Ko, who is one of the characters in love with

Yum-Yum and tackles a role that involves extensive singing dialogue.

"For me it was a very rewarding experience ... my character offers a lot of extreme comic relief."

Considering the school has spent nearly \$12,000 to make the production a success and, more importantly, a lot of time and effort by students and staff, the school is hoping the community throws its support behind the event.

Where: Quakers Hill High School

When: June 23-25, 6:30pm

Tickets: \$7 concession, \$10 adults. Call the school on 9837 1533.