Yum-Yum experience

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 Nana, 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 1333.