

# Musical slays 'em

**C**ROWN may be an adult entertainment hub, but this week part of it is being given over to childhood fantasy.

A school production, *Jason and the Dragon*, is coming into the neon-lit Showroom and if teacher-director Paul Keelan gets his wish, this one-night stand will be the start of something big — not just for Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, in Melbourne's west, but for Australian music theatre generally.

"This is how *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat* started," he says.

*Jason and the Dragon*, written by Keelan and Gary Young, combines live action and computer design. The musical fantasy adventure also has a 200-strong cast, including an orchestra of students and teachers.

"We wanted to produce something original from the ground up and then integrate this into different parts of the curriculum," Keelan says.

Visual art students have painted images suggested by lines in Young's script and will see these up on a stage screen.

Dialogue is also shaping Japanese lessons, helping creative writing, and inspiring the building of a campus garden.

*Jason and the Dragon* is even finding its way into Religious Education with its themes of faith, hope and courage.

"This is a celebration of our whole school community," Keelan says.

The show will live on as a CD. Four songs and a "mega mix" have been recorded.



**There be a dragon:** Natasha Rodrigues plays Gilbraithe the Dragon and Dalip Lika plays Jason.  
Picture: JESSICA LEE