



Write on: Paul Keelan's scripts are hitting the mark.

Picture: Michelle Coleman

## Teacher all smiles after another stage success

SCRIPTWRITER Paul Keelan is riding a wave of success.

The head of music at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College in Braybrook, wrote, produced and directed the school's production *Jason and the Dragon* which was performed at the Crown Casino showroom last Thursday.

It had a cast of 200 including an orchestra of students and teachers.

Mr Keelan, of Seddon, co-wrote the

musical fantasy with artist Gary Young.

In 2002 the pair won the inaugural Pratt prize for music theatre, an initiative of theatre lover and socialite Jeanne Pratt, with their script *Sideshow Alley*.

They received a cash prize of \$50,000 and a public workshop performance by The Production Company of Melbourne valued at \$30,000.

Melbourne's Playbox Theatre

Company picked up the script and will premier it on November 17.

Mr Keelan said the award was proof that original scripts were valued in Australia.

"There are very few original pieces created in Australia. It's a very difficult thing to achieve."

He said it was as important for schoolchildren to enjoy the thrill of creating and performing an original piece as it was for audiences to view them.