

**YOUTH ARTS**



Sixteen students from nine schools will collaborate for their Step into the Limelight performance this week.

# Kids step into limelight as part of extravaganza

By Mark Sawa

More than 1600 students from 65 schools will take to the stage this week for the gala performance in Canberra's biggest annual youth arts extravaganza.

Step into the Limelight began in 2007 and gives students from kindergarten to college a chance to work with professional artists, tertiary institutions and arts organisation to develop outstanding performances.

This is the final performance in a three-part event that stretches across two months which has also included a major art exhibition and a film festival.

Limelight production manager Cheryl Diggins said the two-night show was to exhibit the arts in ACT public schools.

"It is about sharing the knowledge and

making sure that a lot of people benefit because we get professionals to run those things," Ms Diggins said. "So instead of one person's knowledge and expertise only reaching one school it reaches across schools."

One professional working with one of the performance projects is Drama Stars Academy creative director Donna Larkin.

She has donated her time to write, teach and direct a play called *The Icing on the Cake!*

It will be performed by 16 students from nine different ACT public schools. Ms Larkin said it was great fun working with the group.

■ The Step into the Limelight Gala Performance takes place at the AIS Arena on Thursday and Friday, August 28-29. Tickets are available from Ticketek.

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