

**\*\*\* EMBARGOED UNTIL MAY 7, 2007 \*\*\***

## **New play premieres at public school**

Dealing with pocket money took a new path today with the premiere of a new play for schools at Goonellabah Public.

The play, *Cent\$ational Harry and the Balance of Life*, is designed to both inform and entertain students about the tricks and traps of managing money.

It comes at a time when teachers and educators are considering how to integrate financial literacy into the school curriculum by 2008, as mandated by the Federal Government. *Cent\$ational Harry and the Balance of Life* is a production put together by boutique publishing and events company, Ethical Investor, and sponsored by Bank of Queensland. Ethical Investor's Executive Director Michael Walsh said the production had been developed with reference to the National Curriculum Framework for Financial Literacy learning statements.

"The production has also adapted the widely regarded seven steps to financial success into a format that young people will enjoy and understand," he said. "These kids will have fun getting a grip on the ideas of risk and return, diversification, and savings and investments. It's also about being positive - money as a means to get ahead, provided you learn from your mistakes."

The one-hour in-school production is written and directed by Paul Johnson, who is also a founder and creative director of leading school-drama company Brainstorm Productions. Mr. Johnson said the drama provided an excellent platform to engage youngsters in otherwise dull or challenging subjects.

"The play will complement other resources that have been developed for financial literacy education," he said. "A dramatic narrative is the best way for children to learn because it educates through multiple senses as well as creating emotional involvement."

Performed by a cast of three young professional actors, the play uses a comedic and circus skills like approach to engage students with the concepts and challenges involved in understanding money.

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