

## NEWS

# Her Maj's to host theatre awards night

BY MICHELLE SMITH

HER Majesty's Theatre will host hundreds of amateur musical theatre cast and crew from across the state in the annual Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Awards night on December 14.

Believed to be the first time the awards have been held in Ballarat, the 33rd annual Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Bruce Awards celebrate the best productions, cast and crews who have taken to the stage over the past 12 months.

Six Ballarat locals have been nominated as finalists for acting, directing, set design and lighting.

"Ballarat is renowned as one of the most artistic cities in Victoria and there is a massive wealth of talent coming from here," said Bal-



Thomas Jenkins

larat Centre of Music and the Arts director Paula Heenan, who has been nominated for direction of the BCMA production of *The Battle of the Boat* in the junior category of the awards.

*The Battle of the Boat* also snared young musical theatre actor Thomas Jenkins a nomination as male

performer in a leading role (junior) for his performance as William Miller in the challenging production.

In the senior categories, Nathan Weyers was nominated for the Grahame Murphy award for settings for his work on *Beauty and the Beast* for BLOC Music Theatre. Matthew and Laurence Heenan were also nominated for their lighting design on the same production.

Megan Scott's portrayal of Lucy Harris in Ballarat Lyric Theatre's production of *Jekyll & Hyde the Musical* won her a nomination in the Doreen Burrows Award for female performer in a leading role.

Music Theatre Guild judges watch hundreds of shows across the state each year, going incognito so producers do not know they are in the audience.