Students sing the praises of cupidity

Caryn Metcalfe

STUDENTS at St Pius X College, Chatswood, have explored the concept of vulnerability through a new studio musical written by their drama teacher Joshua Combes.

The production, based on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, features actors from St Pius X College and Mercy College.

Mr Combes said the students had been working on the play for most of the year. “We’ve been putting it together since the end of March,” he said.

“Before that it’s taken a couple of months to weave it together and workshop it with the kids to make it more authentic as a drama teacher.”

Mr Combes said the main aim of the play was talking about vulnerability as a strength.

“The concept of drama is new to the school and it’s a vulnerable venture to be involved creatively and being brave in that way, I wanted to talk through my play about that philosophy with the students,” he said.

“It was also looking at strength in a wider way and the boys generally thinking about physical strength and not being able to show their emotion and be authentic.

“We’ve really played and twisted the end of the original character stories of Shakespeare, maybe healing some of the gender issues.”

Christian Whale, 16, plays the lead role of Benedick, who despises the concept of love and showing vulnerability, while his best friend Claudio is prone to showing those feelings.

Benedick spends the first half of the play trying to correct his friend’s beliefs, while Claudio is plotting to trick him into falling in love.

“He’s a character that was given to me because I’m not normally a Benedick type character,” Christian said.

“He’s a character who’s very opinionated and arrogant at times, but his friends don’t give up and try to change him.

“The way the character is played, he’s a very confident and outspoken character and I tend to be a rather quiet person. I’m now being more expressive and confident with my friends.”

*I’m With Cupid* debuted last night and is on again tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30pm.

For tickets visit trybook.ning.com/124492.