It’s a big song and dance number

By Kiel Egging

She’s been in numerous school productions and other musical events, but Undera’s Christina Hantzinikolas’ next big performance will undoubtedly be the biggest of her life.

The Year 8 McGuire College student is one of 33 from around the state chosen in the principal cast for the 2010 Victorian State Schools Spectacular to be held at Melbourne’s Hisense Arena in September.

A further 20 students from the college will also be part of the spectacular’s mass choir, performing a wide variety of songs from artists such as Michael Jackson, Pink, Jennifer Lopez and Andrea Bocelli.

The spectacular will feature more than 2600 performers from 110 government schools across Victoria, including singers, dancers, musicians, circus performers and puppeteers.

Christina is learning 34 different songs and various dance moves for the production, and is travelling to Melbourne every weekend for rehearsals.

“I’ve jumped into a whole different world,” she said.

“We got a run through on Saturday on the whole show and we sat there for two hours just listening to what it’s going to be about.

“It just amazes you how much work goes into it.”

Christina said she was extremely excited about performing in the show — where she will play the role of Little Red Riding Hood’s grandmother.

“Because I’m in the ensemble, I have to learn every song and dance, which is huge.

“There’s going to be thousands of people watching kids sing and do what they love and I can’t wait to be there in the arena and see all these faces,” she said.

Year 8 choir member Catherine Fonte said she hoped the spectacular would be a challenging and ultimately rewarding experience for her.

“I’m a bit nervous, but I reckon it’ll be really fun and it’ll give me a lot more confidence,” she said.

Acting principal John Sciacca said he was ecstatic to have so many students from the college involved in the production.
Gearing up: A strong contingent of McGuire College students, including Anneleise Benfold, Catherine Fonte and Christina Hantzimikolas, will be performing in the 2010 Victorian State Schools Spectacular.  Picture: Julie Mercer