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# young post

## Pineapple buns

Students from a special needs school to stage drama based on Hong Kong's favourite snack, writes **Rebecca Tsui**

**S**tudents from John F. Kennedy Centre (JFK Centre) are determined to prove that physical handicap is no obstacle to putting on an entertaining show for the audience.

Their first public performance, a musical called *I Love Pineapple Bun*, will be staged tomorrow and on Thursday. It also celebrates the 40th anniversary of the school. The students showed great

enthusiasm when the school's music teacher, Joy Yau, proposed the idea about a year ago. Following a series of selection trials, training sessions and workshops, about 30 students were chosen to take part in the production, which features music, dance and drama.

Teachers and parents are also taking part in the show. The story revolves around Pineapple Girl, who loves pineapple buns from *cha chan teng*.

The students are working hard as the big day approaches. Apart from after-school practice, they also rehearsed on Sundays.

"It's tiring for them to come to school on Sundays. But they understand that if they don't show up, it will affect others," Ms Yau says.

"They have become more mature rehearsing for the show.

"They are less shy and have learned to co-operate with

others. They've also become more responsible and disciplined."

The students have displayed creativity and offered ideas to the show's director.

"Through the musical, we want to highlight the fact that everyone has their own talent and can excel," Ms Yau says.

Dicky Lau Shiu-fung, 17, who plays the head of the Wheelchair Gang, wants to keep the story a secret.

"It will be a very funny and interesting show. The ending will surprise you," he says.

Dicky, who is confined to a wheelchair, will sing and dance in the show.

"I joined the production because I wanted to try new things," he says.

"I had never thought about playing a bad guy. It's hard. The scrip and the moves are also a challenge."

Wong Tun-naau, 20, who plays a waiter, has difficulty talking and co-ordinating his muscles. But he will also sing and dance.

"I was shy and nervous at the beginning," Tun-naau says. "Besides rehearsing at school, I also practised at home. I'm more confident and fluent now."

Ms Yau says the students are determined to do their best.

"The musical gives them a chance to display their talent and helps them grow as a person.

"We always believe that our students can do better. We are all eagerly looking forward to the performance."

For more information about the show, call the JFK Centre at 2817 0131



AS THE BIG DAY APPROACHES, THE STUDENTS HAVE BECOME MORE RESPONSIBLE AND DISCIPLINED. TOP: A POSTER PROMOTING THE SHOW. PHOTO: DAVID WONG

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