

ENTERTAINMENT

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Regals present Lion King Jr musical

Savannah comes alive

THE Regals Musical Society will present Disney *The Lion King Jr* at the Rockdale Town Hall these school holidays.

The abridged musical, designed for young audiences and adults alike, is based on the Broadway production and the 1994 Disney film of the same name.

For The Regals Musical Society's two young casts, performing as all-animal characters on stage has been challenging, but the show has been brought to life by wonderfully designed costumes, and it features cleverly designed puppets with some very unique staging.

The Lion King tells the story of a cub named Simba as he struggles with his past and overcomes his fear to fulfil his destiny as king. Along the way we see the young lion rekindle his relationship with a courageous lioness Nala and form friendships with Timon the meerkat and Pumbaa the



'CUBS' JUNIOR CAST REHEARSALS: (from left back row) Julian, Charlee, Sebastian, Ava, Lily (from left front row) Kurt, Sienna, Tiana and Peyton.

warthog.

Popular hit songs from the original *Lion King* movie such as *Hakuna Matata* and *Can You Feel The Love Tonight* (written by Sir Elton John and Tim Rice), will also

guarantee some sing-a-longs during the performance.

Regals is bringing the production of Disney *The Lion King Jr* to Rockdale Town Hall with 67 talented young performers who were chosen

out of over 150 auditionees for two casts; The younger junior "Cubs" cast and the older youth "Lions" cast.

The cast members, who come from all over Sydney, have thoroughly enjoyed

immersing themselves in the characters of their roles, spending time with old friends and making new ones.

Among the cast are 42 St George and Sutherland Shire residents.

Dani Caruso of Bexley North who plays Rafiki in the Lions cast, started her musical theatre journey as a tree in the *Wizard of Oz*.

Since then she has been cast in a number of her favourite roles: Belle - *Beauty and the Beast* (Inaburra), Princess Fiona - *Shrek* (EMS), and Regina - *Rock of Ages* (The Regals).

She is very excited to be cast as Rafiki.

"I auditioned for this musical because *The Lion King* movie is such a bop and I love it", she said.

The Lion King Jr, Friday, September 27 to Sunday, October 6.

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