

Entertainment

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Model mouse

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ARE you a man or a mouse?

For 12-year-old Gold Coast actor Dylan McLean, he's both.

While most kids wind down over the school holidays, the Benowa-based thespian plays Stuart Little in the Brisbane Arts Theatre's production of Stuart Little. The play debuted to rave reviews and a packed theatre, making Dylan proud.

"It did really well and now we're performing one every day," he said. "I suppose it's hard to keep the energy going but the shows are an hour and 20 minutes so you regain your stamina overnight.

"Having shows so close together helps keep the standard good. It's such a lovely show with so many lovely people."

McLean has been acting since age seven when he told mum Wendy McLean he wanted to be an actor.

"He's determined," she said.

"A lot of people say to us that he's going to change his mind about what he wants to do because he's so young, but we doubt that. He's good at what he does and he takes it very seriously."

Besides his theatre ambitions, the Trinity Lutheran College student also does film work and recently completed a shoot on his fourteenth short film.



Dylan McLean as Stuart Little

Dylan said 2011 has been a "hard" year for young theatre performers with minimal roles for kids, but he leapt at the chance to play Stuart: "Most of the theatre auditions this year have been for a lot older parts. But when I saw this I knew I would be perfect for the role."

Dylan's idol is Australia's Hugh Jackman.

"I love how natural he is,

especially in his film work and the roles he picks to play make sense to me."

Dylan said in his downtime from the show he's "planning" what theatre productions he's going to audition for next year.

Stuart Little plays daily at the Brisbane Arts Theatre, Brisbane, until December 23. Book at artstheatre.com.au