



Wendy Cunnell, from Calista, and Ieshae Pereira, of Singleton, prepare for *Moonwebs* and *Scorched Thongs*.

Ready to dance in moonwebs

DANCERS from Calista and Singleton are busily preparing for their part in STEPS Youth Dance Company's next production, *Moonwebs* and *Scorched Thongs*.

It will be the girls' first performance with the 20-year-old company in a unique production that explores and challenges contemporary gender ideals in Australia and was inspired by its dancers, who pinned their thoughts about being male or female on a communal notice board before collaborating with professional choreographers.

Singleton resident and Kolbe Catholic College student Ieshae Pereira (16) said she had been passionate about dance all her life.

"To me it is a way of self-expression and relief from reality," she said.

Wendy Cunnell (15), of Calista, attends John Curtin College of the Arts, where she is in the specialist ballet program.

"I have been dancing since I was three at Beverly Margaret School of Dance," she said.

"I have been on tours to Kuala Lumpur, Sydney and Melbourne.

"I have been accepted into the WA Academy of Performing Arts."

The production will be staged at the Playhouse Theatre from April 3 to 6 and a team of 19 dancers will present excerpts of the production, *Fragments I*, at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, on April 25.