



DRUM TAO: Performers rehearse for the Samurai of the Drum at Her Majesty's Theatre yesterday.

Picture: DEAN MARTIN

Japanese drums like 'mother's heartbeat'

THEIR huge wadaiko drums make a tremendous sound but babes in arms have been known to sleep through their shows.

Japan's elite company of martial arts drummers, Drum-Tao, hope people attending *The Samurai of the Drum* at Her Majesty's Theatre today and tomorrow will muster the courage to leave their earplugs at home. "We know people bring earplugs to

our shows and members of the crew often wear them but they don't need to," company member Taro Harasaki said in Adelaide yesterday.

"Some people say the Japanese drum is like a mother's heartbeat and we've seen babies asleep on their mothers' laps when we play.

"The first time you hear the sound you might feel it's too loud but gradually you will feel comfortable."

The drums themselves, made from wood and cowskin, hold the key.

"There's nothing electric on stage at all," Harasaki said. "The sound is loud, of course, but it's natural and harmless to the human ear."

Australian audiences are the first outside Japan to experience *The Samurai of the Drum*, a new show created on the high of a sold-out US tour earlier this year.

- Louise Nunn

Stashed cash affair Foley's fiery day in court

DEPUTY Premier Kevin Foley has repeatedly clashed with a lawyer for former senior bureaucrat Kate Lennon during a marathon testimony in the Supreme Court over the stashed cash affair.

Ms Lennon resigned from the public service in 2004 after it was revealed she placed about \$6 million of departmental funds in a trust account to hold for the next financial year.

She is now suing the Government and claims she was bullied out of the post.

Mr Foley yesterday said he had introduced accounting reforms immediately after his Government's election in 2002 to prevent departments "carrying over" funds.

He claimed Ms Lennon had breached that policy, on which all public officers had a responsibility to educate themselves.

Mr Foley also challenged questions from Ms Lennon's lawyer over his involvement in the subsequent investigation.

He twice accused Ms Lennon's lawyer of being "tricky", dismissed a series of questions as "nonsense" and refused to become involved in "linguistic gymnastics" during cross-examination.

Mr Foley said he had a high regard for Ms Lennon's per-

POLITICAL
REPORTER

DANIEL
WILLS



formance prior to the "stashed cash" breach and she had admitted breaking the Government's policy.

"Her only grievance was that she wasn't as tricky and clever as other people were," Mr Foley said.

"This wasn't a matter of corrupt practice, this was a matter of breaking Government procedures and this behaviour was out of character.

"I have a high regard for Kate Lennon, and did so in Government."

Mr Foley denied he had been directly involved in the investigation into Ms Lennon.

"It was not up to me to determine if what was dodgy on the surface was in fact dodgy," he said.

"I don't involve myself or implant myself (in investigations). That would be quite improper." Jay Weatherill and Michael Atkinson are expected to be called before the court at a later date.

PAGE 28: State Parliament