Student Introductions

The student introduction is an opportunity for students from your school who enjoy public speaking/drama to be involved in Youth Dance Festival. It is an opportunity to set the scene and create a mood to surround your performance. Here are some hints for creating an exciting, engaging introduction for your performance.
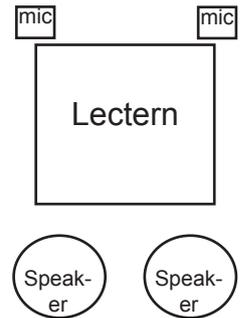
Who should be our student speaker?
Choose a student that is a confident speaker, and preferably not in the dance, so it can start quickly. And speak to your drama department. They may have some other innovative ideas for making your speech effective. Be creative and make an impact on the audience. This is the first part of your dance piece that the audience will see.

How many speakers can we have?
One or two. There are only two mics on the lectern. Speakers don't need to lean in to the mics; they do need to speak up.

What sort of speech should it be?
The speakers are the first part of your performance - make it good! Write the speech early and rehearse often. The most effective opening speeches are fully integrated with the performance. Speakers don't need to introduce themselves or the school, or thank anyone - some of most entertaining speeches are brief dialogues between characters. Think outside the square – you do not just have to walk on, deliver a speech, then exit. Use the speech as an opportunity to explain what the dance is about and how it relates to the theme.

What is the usual procedure?

• Speakers enter from Prompt side extreme downstage wing to the lectern when the Stage Manager gives the 'go'. This is the same side as the dancers enter. This entrance is made in the dark, although there are blue side lights to help.

• Wait at the lectern in silence and keep still in the dark. If there are 2 introducers, each one stands in line with their side of the lectern, and in line with the microphone.

• Wait until the pool of light surrounding the lectern comes up and it shines in your eyes. This is your cue to start speaking.

• Wait for a blackout before exiting, then leave the same way you entered.