

THE DANCE

JORDAN HALL

Martha Graham Jan. 27, 45

Last evening at Jordan Hall, Aaron Richmond presented Martha Graham and her company of dancers and musicians, including Louis Horst, musical director; Eric Hawkins, May O'Donnell, Merce Cunningham, Pearl Lang, Nina Fonaroff, Marjorie Mazia, Ethel Winter and Yuriko, in a program consisting of the following dance productions, all of which had choreography by Martha Graham and costumes by Edythe Gilfond.

"Every Soul Is a Circus," with music by Paul Nordhoff, and set by Philip Stapp; "Appalachian Spring," with music by Aaron Copland, and set by Isamu Noguchi; and "Deaths and Entrances," with music by Hunter Johnson and set by Arch Lauterer.

By EDYTHE GILFOND

It is eight years to a day since Martha Graham appeared in recital in this city; last evening she presented a program of three of her recent and complex dance productions, assisted by a company that was as notable for its unusual ability as the evening was for its surprises. In the time that has elapsed since she was last here, Miss Graham has grown definitely more ambitious in her choreography, all the numbers last night being of considerable length and highly intricate as to detail, and, if possible, increasingly abstract in dance patterns and individual style.

Of the three offerings last night, this observer found most pleasure in "Appalachian Spring," set to music by Aaron Copland, and representing in stylized mime and dance a wedding, a revival meeting and the building of a house by a group of settlers whose strong emotions belie their Puritanical garb. Martha Graham danced the bride with an intensity that sometimes bordered on the monotonous but had a fine dignity in repose, while May O'Donnell had fire and beauty as a pioneer woman, and Eric Hawkins and Merce Cunningham performed with spirit and skill as the bridegroom and the minister.

Louis Horst conducted the orchestra or a dozen pieces in the accompanying music, which was by turns sad and stormy. Today's program will include "Appalachian Spring," "Every Soul Is a Circus" and "Mirror Before Me."