

# New Dance

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## By Graham

By JIM O'CONNOR

The world premiere of "Dark Meadow," which highlights the artistry of Martha Graham, First Lady of the Modern Dance, was held last night at the Plymouth Theatre, where Miss Graham and her company are presenting a repertory of their best works.

Curtain calls were countless. Seldom has a dancer received such a wild ovation.

Renaissance is the theme of "Dark Meadow." Interwoven in the action are the memory of mankind and the endlessness of love.

"Dark Meadow," it appears, is life itself. Yet the new work is more lyric than dramatic or romantic. As danced, it depicts the enterprise of seeking.

The One Who Seeks is Martha Graham, who interprets the role with the expressiveness and impressiveness that have earned her such preeminence among lovers of the dance.

He Who Summons is Erick Hawkins, who provides the setting for some of Miss Graham's best movements. May O'Donnell is She of The Ground, and a distinctive She is she.

The Who Dance Together are young folks who add much to the spirit of the piece.

The score by Carlos Chavez, the Mexican composer-conductor, was rhythmic, almost monotonous. But Miss Graham varied the tempo by dancing slower to some fast measures and faster to some slow measures. The effect was entrancing.

Isamu Noguchi, who designed the striking setting, was in the audience, receiving congratulations. His objects were outlined against a background of black velvet drapes.

Choreography for "Dark Meadow" was by Martha Graham. Edythe Gilfond did the costumes. And the music was directed by Louis Horst.

The program opened with the much simpler "Salem Shore," in which Miss Graham danced alone. And the program closed with the satiric "Every Soul Is A Circus," in which she was assisted by the full company. But not even once in this comedy did Miss Graham smile.

Both works have been done time and again but still retain all their lustre. Truth to tell, I liked best of the evening that "Every Soul Is A Circus."

"Dark Meadow," a movement of moods, is danced to stress an apprehension of life. Nobody can do that better than Martha Graham. She is, of course, a dancer of intensity and great power. "Dark Meadow" is brightened by her brilliance.