

Appreciation Of Martha Graham

We had a "Letter to the Editor" a few days back suggesting that people who returned "bewildered and confused" from the Martha Graham dancers' performance, were not quite prepared for Martha Graham, and knowing not what they saw, liked it not. The writer expressed the thought that if we had published articles on the background, motif, and action of the Martha Graham ideas, prior to the local showing, that perhaps more people would have appreciated it more—or, knowing in advance it might be something hoity-doity and above their every day aesthetic senses, they would not attend at all.

Any one can understand and delight in the choreography of Agnes DeMille in "Oklahoma," but the ballet often leaves many of the common citizenry cold. Ray Bolger's comedy dancing is readily assimilated with much gusto, whereas an interlude of wood nymphs flittering about in a Shakespearean set-to, may be a little too airy for the casual spectator.

Our "Letter to the Editor" writer intimated that inasmuch as Martha Graham is "tops" in her field, that it was a privilege to have her and her cast here, and since she is reputed so famous in her specialty, we should like her for being famous. Dali is a famed painter—but his fans are but those initiated in his art and those who like it. But a limited number prefer opera to the straight theater.

The dour reception of the Martha Graham players leads us to believe that our correspondent is right—and it might be that we as a newspaper failed, and should have forewarned our readers that Martha Graham dancing is olive-like . . . you have to cultivate a taste for it.