

MARTHA GRAHAM WINS APPLAUSE IN DANCING ACT

By Florence Lawrence

MARTHA GRAHAM brought something distinctly new to the local dance stage last night and, with her "American Document," roused a big audience at Philharmonic to loud applause. Miss Graham, always a leader in the development of the dance, has evolved a pageant of voice and action which tells a vivid story of outstanding American scenes. She has woven into a gay and spirited pattern the Declaration of Independence, an Indian episode and scenes suggestive of the Puritans, the Emancipation, all of which are poignant in their suggestion and remarkable dance exhibitions as well.

* * *

With a large group supporting her in the varied movement of this elaborate drama, Miss Graham and Erik Hawkins are principals, while Housely Stevens Jr. is the speaker, officially known as the interlocutor.

In costuming, settings and dance form each number was significant and stimulating. It is to be hoped that Miss Graham can be persuaded to repeat this exceptional performance soon again for Los Angeles.

Three solo numbers by the star preceded the Documentary dance. The grotesque "Sara-bande" and the visionary "Frontiers" provided exceptional vehicles for Miss Graham's amazing technic and fine interpretative qualities.

* * *

Louis Horst was at the piano throughout the evening and proved again his finesse at adapting melodies and familiar themes to the rhythmic demands of the performer.

Merle Armitage presented the artists last night as the final event in his winter series of concerts.

* * *

Los Angeles (Cal.) "Examiner."
Mar. 11. 1939.