

The Billboard. Feb. 2, '29.

New York Recitals

Martha Graham, assisted by Louis Horst, pianist, gave a highly interesting dance recital at the Booth Theater on Sunday afternoon, her program embracing wide variation and a new departure from the usual things which she has been known for. Chief among the early numbers were the "Fragments" of Louis Horst, entitled "Tragedy and Comedy". These were done in the archaic Greek manner and were by far the most interesting of the entire program. Her movement in "Comedy" especially was of a very fine order and quite an innovation for Miss Graham in contradistinction to the type of dancing she usually employs. Mr. Hugo Bergamasco, flutist, assisted as accompanist and the music was excellent, and from the pen of Mr. Horst. Miss Graham's costumes were both lavish and fantastic and added much to the recital. She showed much grace and form, tho there were times when the meaning seemed rather immature in its expression.

The entire second half of the program departed from the spirit evidenced in the foregoing and a marked psychological depression predominated. Altho Miss Graham quoted from Nietzsche "Dance—strong free joyous action", there was little joy, the expressions being rather of an intraversional order and much in keeping with the Nietzschean philosophy. One felt rather sorely depressed at the close of this latter half of the program, and there can be no doubt that this "sadness or inward feeling", expressed with the abjectedness with which Miss Graham clothes it, will react against her as an artist, for it lacks a rhythmic balance and is totally devoid of the extraverting necessary for living form.

Louis Horst disclosed his fine artistry as accompanist, which position in the dance world he is without peer, and thruout the entire program Miss Graham received remarkably fine sup-

port, which added not a little to her interesting work.

The music used was modern in character and included the following composers: Honegger, Slavenski, Ravel, Scriabin, Horst, Prokofieff, Zipoli, Mom-pou, Gretchaninoff and Ornstein.

J. B.