

# VASSAR COLLEGE

January 24, 1945

7:45 p. m.

Students' Building

## MARTHA GRAHAM

and

## DANCE COMPANY

Louis Horst, *Musical Director*

Management:

AUSTIN WILDER

745 Fifth Ave.

New York, 22, N. Y.

# "EVERY SOUL IS A CIRCUS"

A SATIRE

Music	- - - - -	Paul Nordoff
Set	- - - - -	Philip Stapp
Costumes	- - - - -	Edythe Gilfond

"Every soul is a circus,  
Every mind is a tent,  
Every heart is a sawdust ring  
Where the circling race is spent."

—Vachel Lindsay.

## CHARACTERS OF THE ARENIC WORLD:

Empress of the Arena	- - - - -	Martha Graham
Ring Master	- - - - -	Erick Hawkins
Acrobat	- - - - -	Merce Cunningham
Ideal Spectator	- - - - -	May O'Donnell
First Arenic Performer	- - - - -	Nina Fonaroff
Other Arenic Performers	-	Pearl Lang, Marjorie Mazia, Ethel Winter, Yuriko

## ACTION:

1. Prologue: Empress of the Arena - - - - - Martha Graham
2. The Ring Master - - - - - Erick Hawkins
3. Parade—Pearl Lang, Marjorie Mazia, Nina Fonaroff, Ethel Winter, Yuriko
4. Training Ring - - - - - Martha Graham and Erick Hawkins
5. Entrance of the Spectator - - - - - May O'Donnell
6. The Show Begins: Star Turn - - - - - Martha Graham
7. Garland Entry - - - - - Nina Fonaroff, Pearl Lang, Marjorie Mazia,  
Ethel Winter, Merce Cunningham
8. Arenic World (a) Triangle - - - - - Martha Graham, Erick Hawkins and  
Merce Cunningham
9. "Poses and Plastiques" - - - - - Nina Fonaroff, Pearl Lang, Marjorie Mazia,  
Ethel Winter, Merce Cunningham
10. Arenic World (b) Duet - - - - - Martha Graham and Erick Hawkins
11. Aerial Interlude - - - - - Pearl Lang, Marjorie Mazia, Nina Fonaroff,  
Ethel Winter, Yuriko, Merce Cunningham
12. Finale - - - - - Entire Company

This is not the literal circus of canvas and sawdust ring but a circus of ridiculous situations and silly behaviors. In every woman there is the desire to be featured in a "star turn," as the apex of a triangle, and as the beloved of a duet. In the life of every woman there is some force which, however temporarily, holds the whip hand. Throughout the circus of her life every woman is her own most appreciative spectator. In this circus of the silly woman's life, the sum total of episodes and of interludes does not add up to mature dignity but to a tragic, addled confusion.

## "DEATHS AND ENTRANCES"

Music	- - - - -	Hunter Johnson
Set	- - - - -	Arch Lauterer
Costumes	- - - - -	Edythe Gilfond

This is a legend of the heart's life. The action takes place in a room and the halls of an ancient house. It concerns three sisters "doom eager" as the three Bronte sisters were "doom eager" to fulfill their destiny.

It concerns the restless paces of the heart on some winter evening. There are remembrances of childhood, certain dramatizations of well-known objects, dreams of romance, hatreds bred of longings and madness. It is "imagination kindled at antique fires."

There are "Deaths and Entrances" of hopes, fears, remembrances, dreams, and there is ultimate vision.

This is essentially a legend of poetic experience rather than a story of incident. In the secret life of the heart there are invisible actors and "Deaths and Entrances" with no barriers of period or time. Rather, there is a suspension of time and subsequent intensification of experience at the sight of some simple remembered object: a shell, a glass goblet, a vase.

The title is a line from a poem by Dylan Thomas.

### THE CHARACTERS ARE:

The three sisters	- - -	Martha Graham, May O'Donnell, Pearl Lang
The three remembered children	- - -	Nina Fonaroff, Marjorie Mazia, Ethel Winter
The dark beloved	- - -	Erick Hawkins
The poetic beloved	- - -	Merce Cunningham
The cavaliers	- - -	David Mann, Richard Astor

## APPALACHIAN SPRING

Commissioned for Martha Graham  
by the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation  
in the Library of Congress.  
Presented here by permission of the Foundation.

Music	- - - - -	Aaron Copland
Set	- - - - -	Isamu Noguchi
Costumes	- - - - -	Edythe Gilfond

Part and parcel of our lives is that moment of Pennsylvania spring when there was "a garden eastward in Eden."

Spring was celebrated by a man and a woman building a house with joy and love and prayer; by a revivalist and his followers in their shouts of exultation; by a pioneering woman with her dreams of the Promised Land.

