

Boston, Mass.

"Globe."

THE DANCE

Jan. *JORDAN HALL*

27, *Martha Graham*

45 By K. S. BARTLETT

Three works choreographed by Martha Graham had their Boston premiere last night at Jordan Hall with every seat filled. The famous exponent of the so-called "modern dance" in America and her able company were warmly applauded and their performance added many to Miss Graham's long list of admirers.

While all were typical Graham works, there seemed at times evidence of a mellowing, a little rounding off, so to speak, of the corners of her distinctly angular and generally uncompromising style. This trend was most apparent in "Appalachian Spring," a really fresh and rather charming thing with moments of tenderness and beauty contrasting nicely with the youthful gaucherie of early Pennsylvania frontier days.

A program piece, the danced story of a newly-married pair building their home and interrupted by a revalist, his gyrating followers and a pioneer woman, "Appalachian Spring" had its world premier in Washington last Fall. It has been called "full of American juice and sap." The music by Aaron Copland suits its mood and style admirably.

Miss Graham in the roll of the bride danced with distinction and made good use of her always great technical skill. May O'Donnell was convincing and at times moving as the gaunt pioneer woman who dreams of the Promised Land and Erick Hawkins was adequate as the husband.

"Deaths and Entrances" is the type of work which has always delighted Miss Graham's followers. Described as the danced story of the hopes, fears, remembrances and dreams of three sisters, with an ablique comparison of the Bronte sisters, the action takes place in an ancient house. There is a great deal of the deliberately grotesque which often characterizes Miss Graham's work. It is at times extremely effective. Occasionally there is a lack of clarity which may or may not be necessary.

Last on the program was "Every Soul Is a Circus," amusing and times biting satire, not so much of the real sawdust world, but of the circus of most human minds.

The orchestra for all three works was under the direction of Louis Horst. There will be a second and last performance this afternoon. The company is presented in this city by Aaron Richmond.