

May 15, 1945

Martha Graham and Dancers

Open Week's Stay at National Brooklyn "Citizen"

Martha Graham and her company of dancers opened their annual spring season at the National Theatre last evening before a large, friendly and enthusiastic audience. The first of seven scheduled performances was featured by the New York premiere of "Appalachian Spring," commissioned for Miss Graham by the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation in the Library of Congress, with music by Aaron Copuland, costumes by Edythe Gilfond, and choreograph by Miss Graham.

Simple, et beautiful, is perhaps the best way to describe "AppalachianS pring." It is the plain story of plain Pennsylvania people when spring was celebrated by a man and a woman buiulding a house with joy and love and prayer; by a revivalist and his followers in their shout sof exaltation, and b a pioneering woman with her dreams of the Promised Land. Mr. Copland's music, which won for him the Pulitzer Prize, like the dance, is American to the core. Assisting Miss Graham, who portrayed the bride, weer May O'Donnell, Merce Cunningham, Erick Hawkins, Nina Fonaroff, Marjorie Mazia, Ethel Winter and a girl known simply as Yuriko.

The program opened with "Salem Shore," a ballad of a woman's longing for her beloved's return from the sea and closed with "Deaths and Entrances," a legend of the heart's life, in which Miss Graham was the ole dancer.