

GRAHAM DANCERS OFFER A NOVELTY

**'John Brown' Seen at National,
With Erick Hawkins and
Will Hare in the Cast**

By JOHN MARTIN

The third novelty of Martha Graham's season at the National Theatre was presented last night in the form of a work called "John Brown," not by herself but by Erick Hawkins, with Mr. Hawkins and Will Hare comprising its cast. It is difficult to justify its inclusion in the repertoire for it is not a dance work at all. Mr. Hawkins, it is true, performs an occasional phrase, but the piece is otherwise all talk—twenty minutes or so of very wooden talk. The text consists of excerpts from the writings of John Brown and others of his day, and though Mr. Hawkins is unquestionably sincere and has his heart in the right place his efforts as an actor are inept. The whole thing, as a matter of fact, comes close to the point of being embarrassing.

For the record, Charles Mills wrote the music and Isamu Noguchi designed three pieces of décor which would be more effective if they did not repeat the scheme of his décor for Miss Graham's "Herodiade."

The program consisted otherwise of a repetition of the new and beautiful "Appalachian Spring," with music by Aaron Copland, and the always amusing "Every Soul Is a Circus" with music by Paul Nordoff and charming décor by Philip Stapp. In the cast besides Miss Graham were Mr. Hawkins, Merce Cunningham, May O'Donnell and Nina Fonaroff in the solo roles.

The house was once more completely sold out and people were turned away from the box-office. As a result of this consistent demand it has been decided to add another performance to the engagement on Sunday evening. The program for the occasion will consist of both the new works, "Appalachian Spring" and "Herodiade," together with "Letter to the World."