

N. Y. "Daily News"

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Graham Dancers

At the Plymouth

Martha Graham, high priestess of the Stress & Strain school of dancing, launched a two-week local season at the Plymouth last night, and packed it as tightly as did the most recent tenant, Spencer Tracy. Last night's program consisted of "Appalachian Spring," "Herodiade" and "Every Soul Is A Circus," all familiar Graham



Martha
Graham

standbys. She had to take four curtain calls for "Spring" and the "Herodiade" she danced with May O'Donnell had the cult screaming its hoarsest bravos.

This year's company is probably little different than last year's company. Merce Cunningham, Erick Hawkins and May O'Donnelly are Miss Graham's principal aids and there is a very cute little Eurasian whose name must be Yuriko.

If Miss Graham's dance dramas have any story line they escape this reporter. She is at most times an interesting dancer of considerable strength and fine originality. But her work always seems completely devoid of humor—with such rare exceptions as "Every Soul Is A Circus"—and is so intense as to be tiring.

But not to her followers, who seem to grow in numerical and vocal strength. She was as big a personal success last night as she has ever been. Her dance dramas doubtless has a plain enough message for everybody in the audience except this writer.

—Robert Sylvester.