

N.Y. "Mirror" Jan. 26, 1946

Martha Graham Art Found Elusive

By ROBERT COLEMAN

(Reprinted from Yesterday's Late Editions)



After her performance in the Plymouth Theatre last evening, Martha Graham rode in state to Roseland Ballroom where she was given an "award for bringing art to the masses." Miss Graham has come a long way, indeed.

We can remember when last year Martha Graham was gratified with one-night stands. Now she jams the customers in for two weeks. She has dances and musical scores commissioned for her by the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation in the Library of Congress. And this season Miss Graham has come under the management of Sol Hurok, the eminent impresario who sponsored the great Pavlova.

The highlight of Miss Graham's bill last night was "Dark Meadow", with score by Carlos Chavez, choreography by Graham, artistic collaboration by Isamu Noguchi and costumes by Edythe Gilfond.

According to a program note, "the action of "Dark Meadow" is concerned with the adventure of seeking. This dance is the re-enactment of the Mysteries which attend the adventure."

Miss Graham and her supporting cast displayed an amazing array of symbolic gyrations, crawls, contortions, leaps and hop-scotches in interpreting the Mysteries.

Garbed in red, Miss Graham danced "One Who Seeks." She fascinated us when she rolled over and over across a long black strip, in which she finally wrapped herself into an excellent resemblance of a deep sea turtle basking atop the warming waves of the Caribbean. The kiddies will love it, too.

Erick Hawkins, as "He Who Summons," was garbed in a

greenish sorong affair, with his manly chest exposed to the breezes. We liked his impersonation of a guy who bit into a pepper to find out if it were hot. It must have been, for Hawkins jumped up and down and fanned his mouth lustily.

As for the Chavez score, it's no ball of fire. We much prefer that which Aaron Copland composed for Miss Graham's "Appalachian Spring," also given last night along with "Letter to the World."

But if this dance reporter was disappointed in and somewhat baffled by "Dark Meadow," the Graham fans were not. Their applause assumed atomic proportions.