

A packed and enthusiastic house greeted Martha Graham on her first appearance of the season with her dance group at the Guild Theatre. Two new solo compositions, "Imperial Gesture" and "Formal Dance," were given, but "American Provincials" remained the favorite of the evening with this writer. This is a composition with a precise pattern and a stark outline; Miss Graham takes its Puritan theme and with her group dances out its grim gauntness with a remorseless rhythm. "Frontier," a solo number by Miss Graham with a modern setting by Isamu Noguchi, was the occasion of an avalanche of applause. There were present, as usual at her recitals, Miss Graham's intermittent quirks from knee or elbow which deftly relieve the austerity of these performances. Louis Horst was at the piano; he was assisted by a five-piece wind and percussion ensemble.

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