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AN American dance exhibit took place in Carnegie Hall, just before the Ballet Russe opened, when Miss Martha Graham offered a program consisting chiefly of "American Document," which had had its première at the Bennington dance festival. Miss Graham has applied her characteristic "abstract" technique to a series of ideas based on Americana, and there is a vocal "interlocutor" to make things clearer. The result is effective, although the notion of placing the ballet in a minstrel-show pattern seems to be an unnecessary complication.

Miss Graham, Erick Hawkins, and a skillful dance group did a notable job with "American Document." The music composed for the presentation by Ray Green must have been right, because it never became noticeable for its own sake.

—ROBERT A. SIMON