

Martha Graham in New Dances

'Elegiac' Is One of Numbers Introduced in Program at the Guild Theater.

By W. J. HENDERSON.

Martha Graham and her group were seen in a program of dances last evening in the Guild Theater. Miss Graham's art is so familiar to the lovers of the dance, especially that of the modern type, that there is little to be said that has not been already said over and over.

There were some new numbers on the list last night. Of these the "Elegiac," to music of Hindemith, was the most striking in its subtlety of conception, its sustained appropriateness of mood and its structural development. It is well known that Miss Graham possesses a most extraordinary technic, based on the principles of the classic dance, but led forward into the new territory with a sense of style and a fertility of imagination rare and compelling.

The technic was employed last evening in this dance with the greatest skill in the development of a series of graphics evoked from a simple and pregnant pattern exhibited at the beginning of the number and repeated in its original form at the commencement of what might be called the second section. The dance proved to be one of Miss Graham's most successful designs and was executed

with her unerring adjustment of proportions and grace of motion.

Another new number which called forth enthusiastic applause was "Ekstassis," two lyric fragments to music of A. Lehman Engel. These two creations were in a more candid style than the "Elegiac," but lacked nothing of the spell of mood and pictorial beauty common to Miss Graham's performances. This artist showed again her unsurpassed ability to invent patterns and continuities fitted perfectly to modernist music and enriching it with a poetry of conception far beyond its own.

"Dithyrambic," which has been in the dancer's repertory for two years, has undergone expansion and development. It has attained a high degree of fullness and satisfying quality. "Dance Songs," by Weisshaus, with occasional drum beats and the singularly effective

chantings of vocalises by Simon Rady, baritone, off stage, were received with evident delight. Miss Graham's pungent humor was irresistible in the "Satire Festival Song." The second part of the program brought forward the group in a "Chorus of Youth" and in "Tragic Patterns." Miss Graham was the solo dancer in the latter. The theater was filled and the audience gave proof that it appreciated the fine and individual art of this gifted and accomplished dancer.