

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Shawn Farley or Carolyn Kilmer at 545-3671



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 30, 2005

WHAT: Center Series presents: The Martha Graham Dance Company

WHEN: Wednesday, October 19 at 7:30 pm

WHERE: Concert Hall

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or

go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

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(American Dance Legend, Martha Graham Dance, Comes to the Fine Arts Center)

On Wednesday, October 19th, the Fine Arts Center and area audiences will be graced with the innovative, primal artistic force of the Martha Graham Dance Company. The evening's program will include Graham's *Diversion of Angels*, *Errand into the Maze* and *Sketches from Chronicle*.

Martha Graham's personal movement philosophies stemmed from her fascination with the origins of humanity—in her principle of pelvic contraction and release, she found a way of divulging the deepest truths, emotions best evoked through physicality. Graham's choreography grew out of those movement ideas and ranged widely in topic, from the mythical, psychological archetypes (roles she felt people daily, unknowingly, act out), to modern art, religious persecution, and the austere, independent American spirit. In collaborations with the twentieth century's major artistic minds, including Aaron Copland and Isamu Noguchi, she brought modern dance to the world's attention and in 1976, President Gerald Ford gave Graham the United States' highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, declaring her a "national treasure." She was the first dancer and choreographer to receive this honor.

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Receiving international acclaim from audiences in over 50 countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and hailed by Anna Kisselgoff, Dance Critic in Chief of The New York Times as “one of the great companies of the world”, Martha Graham is a true American original who’s created an art form and repertory of nearly 200 works – putting her creative output on par with Picasso and Stravinsky.

Named Dancer of the Century by TIME Magazine in 1998, Graham has taught and inspired many of the great modern ballet choreographers.

The Martha Graham Dance Company will perform at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Wednesday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40, \$30, and \$15; Youth 17 and Under are \$15 and Five College Students are \$15. Preceding the main performance, on Sunday, October 16, there will be a film showing of “Martha Graham: The Dancer Revealed” followed by a lecture/discussion with Umass Professor of Dance and former student of Martha Graham, Billbob Brown. Located in the Jones Library large meeting room, this event is free and open to the public. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or go online to www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries. This performance is sponsored by Finck & Perras Insurance Company and Greenfield Savings Bank. Funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, which receives major support from the National Endowment for the Arts with additional support coming from the state arts agencies of New England and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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