



Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

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Bemis School of Art
Performing Arts

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MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

Fine Arts Center to kick off 75th Anniversary celebration with dance

COLORADO SPRINGS (Oct. 26, 2010) – As part of its 75th Anniversary celebration, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is pleased to present the Martha Graham Dance Company on April 19, 2011, performing in the SaGāJi Theatre in honor of the historic Martha Graham performance on the very same stage in 1936.

The FAC opened on April 20, 1936, with a week-long series of performances, exhibitions, films, lectures and more. For its 75th Anniversary, the Fine Arts Center will present events throughout 2011, beginning with the 20th Annual Wine Festival of Colorado Springs (March 11-12) and the Martha Graham Dance Company.

"When Martha Graham danced onstage at the Fine Arts Center back in 1936, it was a powerful statement about our position as a forward looking, forward thinking organization," said Sam Gappmayer, FAC President and CEO. "To have this world-renowned company perform 75 years later with new material as well as updated pieces from the original Fine Arts Center performance is a rare and wonderful opportunity."

The Dance Company will perform *Lamentation Variations*, a series of vignettes by contemporary choreographers that interpret the theme of the classic Graham piece, *Lamentation*, performed at the FAC in 1936, and *Steps in the Street*, also originally choreographed by Graham in 1936, among other numbers.

"We're planning to open the program at the FAC with a multimedia event, "Dance is a Weapon," said Janet Eilber, the Dance Company Artistic Director. "This is a montage of six dances connected with projected images and narration that highlight what was happening in America during the early years of the FAC; an era when the nascent art form of American modern dance was fueled by the political and social activism. Dances were created as if "ripped from the headlines" -- with themes that aligned modern dance with the complex social concerns, including the financial crisis, civil rights, workers rights and the rise of fascism in Europe. This powerful montage not only presents seminal masterworks of modern dance but will chart to topical issues of the day -- that very much relate to your 75th Anniversary -- and that also resonate with challenges in this country today."

Martha Graham Dance Company

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
Fine Arts Center's SaGāJi Theatre

- **Performance at 7 p.m.**
Tickets: \$50
- **Premier Seating with Special Reception**
Tickets: \$75 (max. of 120)

Master Class co-presented by Colorado Springs Dance Theatre, Colorado College and the FAC
Monday, April 18, 2011
Colorado College's Cossitt Hall

- **Start time TBA**
Tickets: \$20 (max. of 50)

**Tickets ... Call 719.634.5583
or visit csfineartscenter.org**

A special reception will follow the performance for premier ticket holders, who can mingle with the dancers. A Master Class is scheduled for April 18 at Colorado College, conducted by a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company.

The Martha Graham Dance Company performance is sponsored by El Pomar Foundation, the Colorado Springs Independent, KKTU, Bee Vradenburg Foundation, Colorado Springs Dance Theatre, Colorado College and the National Endowment for the Arts.

MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

The Martha Graham Dance Company has been a leader in the development of contemporary dance since its founding in 1926. Informed by the expansive vision of pioneering choreographer Martha Graham, the Company brings to life a timeless and uniquely American style of dance that has influenced generations of artists and continues to captivate audiences. Graham and her Company have expanded contemporary dance's vocabulary of movement and forever altered the scope of the art form by rooting works in contemporary social, political, psychological, and sexual contexts, deepening their impact and resonance.

Always a fertile ground for experimentation, the Martha Graham Dance Company has been an unparalleled resource in nurturing many of the leading choreographers and dancers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Merce Cunningham, Erick Hawkins, Pearl Lang, Pascal Rioult, and Paul Taylor. Her groundbreaking techniques and unmistakable style have earned the Company acclaim in more than 50 countries.

Today, the Company continues to foster Graham's spirit of ingenuity. It is embracing a new programming vision that showcases masterpieces by Graham, her contemporaries, and their successors alongside newly commissioned works by contemporary artists inspired by Graham's legacy. With programs that unite the work of choreographers across time within a rich historical and thematic narrative, the Company is actively working to create new platforms for contemporary dance and multiple points of access for audiences.

MARTHA GRAHAM AT THE FAC

Martha Graham revolutionized the world of dance. *Time* Magazine named her "Dancer of the Century." In 1936, she performed at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center when she was already considered the most gifted and creative dancer in America.

"The aim of my dancing is to impart the sensation of life, to energize the spectator, to send him away with a fuller sense of his own potentialities and the power of realizing them," said Graham.

The dance recital on April 21-22 consisted of 10 pieces, accompanied by pianist Zoltan Kodaly, including *Lamentation—Dance of Sorrow*. For the now-famous *Lamentation*, Graham was dressed in a tubular costume that enclosed the dancer and allowed her to change shapes as she depicted grief.

"When Miss Graham in her '*Lamentation*' depicts the dumb agony of grief, she does not droop like a flower, or attitudinize like Patience on a monument, she is grief from the first stricken bewildered gropings of her head and torso to the last moment when she averts her covered head with a finality that is pitiful and terrible."

-- Edwin Schloss, *Philadelphia Record*

In the *Gazette and Telegraph* reported on April 22 on the first performance:

"Martha Graham's dance recital last night was another triumph in the annals of the new Fine Arts Center ... It has set a breathless pace in a community quite used to calm. History indeed is being made in the city of General Palmer's dreams. The new zest that has gripped social life here carries with it something that revives the glamour of by-gone days. It matters little that the entertainment provided in this beautiful theater is the last word in modern art ...

"The audience last night that greeted Miss Graham was one of the best dressed gatherings ever seen in Colorado Springs. There were more gorgeous evening gowns and wraps, more tails and top hats in evidence than have ever been seen here. The setting of the theater is so luxurious that an audience of this kind fits in perfectly with its surroundings, and the audience, whether it desires to or not, becomes part of the performance.

Elizabeth Hylbom reviewed the recital:

"Martha Graham's is not a performance upon with one comments in familiar stock terms; it is a thing to be experienced, to be felt, and, from there, to be accepted or rejected, according to one's individual ability to harbor the austerity of her hyper-modernity. Epoch making, however, the appearance was in its every aspect, bringing to the newly-opened Fine Arts Center one of the greatest living innovators in perhaps the oldest of the arts, an art which she chooses to present with total renunciation of the past, with the manifestation of emotions, as she feels them, through the plastic line of bodily movement."

Fine Arts Center

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, established in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre and arts education school. Built on the foundation of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Association of Museums, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, performing arts through the FAC Theatre Company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art. The FAC building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. In 2007, the FAC unveiled a \$28.6 million renovation and expansion. Visit csfineartscenter.org.

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