

## INNER LANDSCAPE PROGRAM

***“I wanted to find a way to reveal the inner landscape – to chart a graph of the heart.” – Martha Graham***

In the 1940s, as the new science of psychology began to capture the imagination of the public, artists, too, turned their attention to the life of the mind, interpersonal relationships, and the use of symbols to express human feeling. Martha Graham anticipated the movement with her 1939 *Every Soul is a Circus*, a portrayal of the female psyche filtered through an uncharacteristically humorous lens—an approach that astonished audiences who had come to regard Graham as the high priestess of angst. Merce Cunningham, in his first role in the Graham Company, and Erik Hawkins were the Acrobat and Ring Master, alluring, tempting, and confusing. Jennifer Dunning wrote in 1986, when *Every Soul is a Circus* was last seen, “Those who doubt the durability of comic art are advised to hurry to City Center for a taste of this keen-flavored nectar of a dance.”

Graham was particularly fascinated by Jungian psychology and the revelation of the human condition through myth. As the decade unfolded, she began her exploration of gender roles and the changing part they played in modern society, often using myth to analyze shifts in the personal balance of power in human relations. *Deaths and Entrances* and *Night Journey*, among her great masterworks, explore these themes and show us Graham in some of her most insightful moments.

The Martha Graham Dance Company has chosen to begin with these three works, diverse in approach but sharing a common brilliance, to build its new project, Inner Landscape. Like *Prelude and Revolt* and *Political Dance* previously, Inner Landscape brings together the work of several choreographers to illuminate a theme that captured the imagination of artists as modern dance developed, and continues to provide inspiration for those working today. Included in the project is work by Mary Wigman (*Witch Dance*) and Anna Sokolow (*Lyric Suite*) and new commissions by Yvonne Rainer (*Lamentable*) and Lar Lubovitch, who will work with the Company in December. In all, the project includes eight dance works, which presenters can program in two evenings, or choose from to suit the tastes of their audiences in one program. The programs will begin with a film by Peter Sparling and John Gutosni, introducing the links between psychology and multiple art forms, and showing how we have all absorbed the language and thinking of psychology into our everyday lives.