



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2005

DAY OF DANCE: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARTHA GRAHAM

Sunday, October 30, 2-3 pm, The Moore Theatre, 1932 2nd Avenue, Seattle

Free Admission; no reservations necessary.

SEATTLE, WA - Cornish College of the Arts and the Seattle Theatre Group present *Day of Dance: the Life and Legacy of Martha Graham*, a free lecture-demonstration about American modern dance pioneer Martha Graham. The lecture-demonstration will include an introduction to Graham's artistic legacy by Susan McLain, former member of the Martha Graham Dance Company. Students of the Cornish College Dance Department will demonstrate the Graham modern dance technique and perform Graham's masterwork *Diversion of Angels*. The lecture-demonstration will be followed by a master class in Graham Technique for invited regional high school students.

Day of Dance: the Life and Legacy of Martha Graham is part of a four-week visiting artist residency at Cornish with Peter Sparling and Susan McLain, both former soloists with the Martha Graham Dance Company. During the residency, Cornish College of the Arts will restage dance pioneer Martha Graham's signature masterwork *Diversion of Angels* in celebration of Graham's first solo performance at Cornish in 1930. The residency will culminate in performances of *Diversion of Angels* by the Cornish Dance Theater, the Dance Department's performing ensemble, November 18-19, 2005 at Broadway Performance Hall.

Martha Graham was a brilliant and influential pioneer of American modern dance. Her impact on dance was profound, and has often been compared to that of Picasso on painting. As a teacher, Graham trained and inspired generations of dancers and choreographers, including such greats as Alvin Ailey, Twyla Tharp, Paul Taylor and Merce Cunningham. Graham collaborated with some of the foremost artists of her time including composer Aaron Copland and sculptor Isamu Noguchi. The Martha Graham Dance Company, founded in 1926, still tours internationally.

In 1930, Martha Graham performed a solo concert and taught a summer workshop at Cornish, introducing Seattle to her modern dance technique. The Graham tradition has been kept alive at Cornish in Graham-based technique classes taught by faculty member Pat Hon, a protégé of Mary Hinkson, principal dancer with the Martha Graham Company from 1951-1973.

The project is made possible through major contributions from The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Boeing Company and the National College Choreography Initiative (NCCI), a Leadership Initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, administered by Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance. Additional funding for this project has been provided by the Bossak-Heilbron Foundation, and E.K. and Lillian F. Bishop Foundation.

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GRAHAM RESIDENCY EVENTS

- Open rehearsal: Friday, October 7, 2-5 pm
Velocity Mainstage Theater, 915 East Pine Street, Seattle
- *Day of Dance: the Life and Legacy of Martha Graham*
Sunday, October 30, 2-3 pm, The Moore Theatre, 1932 2nd Avenue, Seattle
- *Cornish Dance Theater Fall 2005 Concert*: Friday, November 18 at 8 pm and
Saturday, November 19 at 2 pm and 8 pm, Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway, Seattle

For more information about any of these events, please call 206.726.5011.

Images available upon request.

ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

ABOUT SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP

Seattle Theatre Group is the not-for-profit performing arts organization dedicated to operating Seattle's historic Paramount and Moore Theatres, presenting diverse programming and maintaining an extensive Education & Outreach program. STG is committed to keeping these theatres alive and vibrant with a broad range of performing arts that enrich our community.

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