



Martha Graham Dance Company Presents NEW@Graham
With Maxine Doyle and Bobbi Jene Smith
December 18–19, 2018

New York, NY, November 27, 2018 – The **Martha Graham Dance Company's NEW@Graham** series offers a look inside the creative process of new works commissioned by the Company. On December 18 and 19, the Company will present a work-in-progress showing of choreographers **Maxine Doyle** and **Bobbi Jene Smith's** collaborative work for the Company, followed by a conversation with the artists. NEW@Graham will take place on Tuesday, December 18, and Wednesday, December 19, at 7pm, at the Martha Graham Studio Theater.

Doyle and Smith are using the classic myth of Demeter and Persephone to investigate the natural human preoccupation with death and the underworld, and the role that women play in our understanding of mortality. Titled *Deo*, the work features an original score by experimental electronic musician **Lesley Flanigan**. *Deo* will premiere as part of the Graham Company's *Eve Project* season at The Joyce Theater in April 2019.

Tickets are \$25 (general) and \$20 (students) and can be purchased by phone at 212-229-9200, or online at www.marthagraham.org/studioseries. The Martha Graham Studio Theater is located at 55 Bethune Street, 11th floor, in Manhattan.

About the Artists

Maxine Doyle is an independent choreographer and director. Since 2002 she has been associate director and choreographer for Punchdrunk, for which she has codirected many works including the multi-award-winning *Sleep No More* (London, Boston, New York, Shanghai) and *The Drowned Man*. Her work for theater and opera includes *Evening at the Talk House* (NT) and *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Glyndebourne). Recent dance-theater works include *After Lethe* for Staatstheater Kassel. Doyle's work for brands includes Louis Vuitton and Selfridges. She will create a site-based dance-theater work with Struct Dance in Perth, Australia, in 2019. Most recently she has been collaborating on her first feature film, *Mari*.

Bobbi Jene Smith is an alumna of the Juilliard School, North Carolina School of the Arts, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. From 2005 to 2014 she was a member of the Batsheva Dance Company under the artistic direction of Ohad Naharin. She has worked and collaborated with artists and companies around the world, including Ohad Naharin, Sharon Eyal, Celia Rowson-Hall, Martha Clarke, and Punchdrunk's *Sleep No More*. She is a certified Gaga teacher and has taught the repertory of Ohad Naharin at schools and universities around the U.S. since 2006. She is the subject of the documentary *Bobbi Jene*, directed by Elvira Lind.

About Martha Graham Dance Company

The Martha Graham Dance Company has been a leader in the development of contemporary dance since its founding in 1926. Today, the Company is embracing a new programming vision that showcases masterpieces by Graham alongside newly commissioned works by contemporary

artists. 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.

Since its inception, the Martha Graham Dance Company has received international acclaim from audiences in more than 50 countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. The Company has performed at the Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, the Paris Opera House, Covent Garden, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as well as at the base of the Great Pyramids in Egypt and in the ancient Herod Atticus Theatre on the Acropolis in Athens. In addition, the Company has also produced several award-winning films broadcast on PBS and around the world.

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Digital photos are available on request.