

GRAHAM100

Martha Graham Dance Company Announces Two Special Events Focusing on Martha Graham and Design, November 12-13, 2024

New York, NY (October 10, 2024) – This November, the **Martha Graham Dance Company** will present two events centered on **Martha Graham's** collaborations with fashion designer **Halston (November 12)** and sculptor and designer **Isamu Noguchi (November 13)**. Both evenings will be co-hosted by **Gabriel Hendifar**, Artistic Director of the international interdisciplinary design studio APPARATUS, and Martha Graham Dance Company Artistic Director **Janet Eilber**.

These special events will take place on November 12 and 13, at 7pm, at the Martha Graham Studio Theater, 55 Bethune Street, 11th Floor, in Manhattan. Tickets are \$60/\$100 for a pair. Tickets are available at marthagraham.org/studioseries/.

Tuesday, November 12, 7pm Graham + Halston: *The Original Celebrity Collaboration* Special Guest Ralph Rucci

This rare event provides an insider's look at the Graham/Halston friendship. The two artists, who were great friends, collaborated on more than 20 design projects throughout the 1970s and 1980s. The evening will include performances by the Company in excerpts of works featuring costumes created by Halston, including *Lucifer* (1975) and *Conversation of Lovers* from *Acts of Light* (1981). Exclusive media and remembrances about Graham and Halston from those who were in the room will also be part of this special program. Several archival Halston costumes will also be on display. Acclaimed fashion designer Ralph Rucci, who was a close associate of Halston, will join Hendifar and Eilber for a conversation and Q&A with the audience. Audience members are invited to stay for a wine reception following the discussion.

Wednesday, November 13, 7pm Graham + Noguchi: *The Essentials of American Modernism* Special Guest Camille Okhio

Graham and Noguchi's indelible, ongoing influence on contemporary design is at the center of this gathering. Graham and Noguchi collaborated on more than 20 works between 1935 and 1988. Archival media and dancing will provide insight into how the iconic Noguchi sets are integrated into Graham's choreography. Excerpts from Graham's masterwork *Cave of the Heart* (1946) will be performed by the Company. Writer, curator, and historian Camille Okhio will join Hendifar and Eilber in a discussion about how these 20th-century geniuses continue to resonate in today's design world. Audience members are invited to stay for wine and conversation after the event, where they will be able to view several Noguchi set pieces up close.

Images are available for download [here](#).

Martha Graham (1894-1991) is recognized as a primal artistic force of the 20th century, alongside Picasso, James Joyce, Stravinsky, and Frank Lloyd Wright. In 1998, *TIME* magazine named Martha Graham "Dancer of the Century," and *People* magazine named her among the female "Icons of the Century." As a choreographer, she was as prolific as she was complex. She created 181 ballets and

a dance technique that has been compared to ballet in its scope and magnitude. Her approach to dance and theater revolutionized the art form, and her innovative physical vocabulary has irrevocably influenced dance worldwide.

Halston (1932-1990) was a groundbreaking American fashion designer renowned for his iconic and glamorous creations that defined 1970s style. Born Roy Halston Frowick in Evansville, IN, he began his career as a milliner before transitioning to fashion design, quickly gaining fame for his elegant, minimalist dresses and use of luxurious fabrics. Halston became synonymous with American luxury, dressing celebrities like Liza Minnelli and Jackie Kennedy. His innovative approach to design, combined with a keen understanding of the modern woman, helped popularize ready-to-wear fashion. Despite facing challenges in the 1980s, Halston's legacy endures, influencing contemporary fashion with his bold vision and timeless designs.

Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) was a pioneering Japanese American artist and designer, celebrated for his influential work across sculpture, architecture, and landscape design. Born in Los Angeles to a Japanese father and American mother, he studied at Columbia University and later in Paris, where he became immersed in the avant-garde movement. Noguchi's art is characterized by a harmonious blend of Eastern and Western aesthetics, often exploring themes of nature, space, and form. His iconic designs, including the Noguchi table and various public sculptures, reflect his belief in the integration of art and everyday life. A visionary thinker, Noguchi and his legacy endure in his innovative contributions to both fine art and design, making him a key figure in 20th-century art history.

About the Hosts and Special Guests

Janet Eilber has been the Artistic Director of the Martha Graham Dance Company since 2005. Her direction has focused on creating new forms of audience access to Martha Graham's masterworks and has burnished the reputation of the Company as one of the country's great cultural assets. Earlier in her career, Eilber danced many of Graham's greatest roles, had roles created for her by Graham, and was directed by Graham in most of the major roles of the repertory. She has since taught, lectured, and directed Graham ballets internationally. Eilber has also performed in films and television and on Broadway, and directed arts education granting for the Dana Foundation. In 2023, she was honored with a Doctorate of Fine Arts from the Juilliard School.

Gabriel Hendifar is the Artistic Director and Founder of the luxury design studio Apparatus. Born in 1981, he studied design for the stage at the University of Southern California and later honed his craft at prestigious fashion design firms. Known for his striking lighting and furniture designs, Hendifar combines the language of modernism with artisanal craftsmanship, resulting in pieces that are both functional and sculptural. Describing his mission as "creating the envelope for the drama of human life," his work has garnered international acclaim and is featured in leading design publications and exhibitions. With a focus on craftsmanship and innovation, Hendifar continues to push the boundaries of contemporary design, while connecting with the deep and ancient human desire for expression through a relationship with the material.

Camille Okhio is a New York-based writer, curator, and historian, and the Senior Design Writer at *Elle Décor*. Born in 1990, she studied Art History at New York University before embarking on a career in design and decorative arts. She pivoted to writing in 2020 and has appeared in *Apartamento*, *W Magazine*, *Architectural Digest*, *The New York Times*, *Art in America*, *Wallpaper**, *PIN-UP*, *Vogue*, and others. She is recognized for her ability to contextualize design within broader discussions around history, society, and culture. She has held speaking engagements at Aspen Art Museum, Noguchi Museum, The Winter Show, the New York Studio School and more. She consults independently for fashion and design brands and recently initiated her curatorial practice with a

group show, *Residual Energies*, at Nina Johnson Gallery. Her work centers on fine and decorative arts, their narrative potential, and their ability to show us who we are and who we would like to be.

Ralph Rucci is a distinguished American fashion designer celebrated for his exquisite craftsmanship and innovative approach to design. A native of Philadelphia, he studied philosophy and literature at Temple University before moving to New York City in 1975 to take classes at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Rucci began his career working for Halston, a pivotal experience that shaped his design philosophy. In 1980, he launched his own business under the name *Ralph Rucci*, which later evolved into *CHADO*, became *CHADO RALPH RUCCI*, and in recent years has returned to *Ralph Rucci*. In the course of his career, Rucci has received 47 awards and honors worldwide, including the Lifetime Living Legend Award from the Fashion Group International. He holds three honorary doctorates, and his work has been the subject of three films and four books. One of his greatest honors is being the only American fashion designer in history invited as a guest member to show Haute Couture in Paris by the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture et Prêt-à-Porter. Rucci's designs are known for their luxurious materials, meticulous attention to detail, and sculptural silhouettes, reflecting a deep appreciation for art and architecture. His contributions to the fashion industry continue to inspire both emerging designers and fashion enthusiasts worldwide.

About the Martha Graham Dance Company

The Martha Graham Dance Company has been a leader in the evolving art form of modern dance since its founding in 1926. It is both the oldest dance company in the United States and the oldest integrated dance company.

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 House, 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 Odeon of Herodes Atticus theater on the Acropolis in Athens. In addition, the Company has also produced several award-winning films broadcast on PBS and around the world.

The 2024-25 season is the second season of GRAHAM100, a three-year 100th anniversary celebration of Martha Graham and her Company's legacy.

For more information about the Company, visit www.marthagraham.org.

Follow the Martha Graham Dance Company on social media:

Instagram: [@marthagrahamdance](https://www.instagram.com/marthagrahamdance)

Facebook: [facebook.com/marthagrahamdance](https://www.facebook.com/marthagrahamdance)

YouTube: [youtube.com/marthagrahamdancecompany](https://www.youtube.com/marthagrahamdancecompany)

Press contact:

Janet Stapleton

212-633-0016 / stapleton.janet@gmail.com