

KANOPY DANCE

Graham: In HER Voice

Produced in Honor of the

100th anniversary of the Martha Graham Dance Company

With a performance of Graham's iconic and joyful celebration of Americana,
"Suite from Appalachian Spring", set to a score by Aaron Copland

Directed by Guest Artists:

Sandra Kaufmann and Miki Orihara

Mar 1-3, 2024

at the Overture Center for the Arts

"Kanopy Dance Company contributes immensely to the continued transmission and dissemination of Graham's artistic legacy. Outside of the Martha Graham Dance Company in New York City (from which many principal artists have come to Madison to work with Kanopy), I cannot think of another company in the world who could present this stunning work in the way it requires."

Sandra Kaufmann, Martha Graham Dance Company Regisseur and Director of Dance, Loyola University, Chicago

*Madison, WI...February 5, 2024...Kanopy joins five professional dance companies internationally, in observing "GRAHAM100," a three-season celebration of Martha Graham Dance Company's 100th Anniversary, with its production of **Graham: In HER Voice** at the Overture Center, March 1-3, 2024. Martha Graham (Graham), 1894-1991, was a prophet and is an enduring art legend whose powerful voice continues to evolve the art of modern dance.*

Kanopy, a "modernist" dance company, "informs" its work through its roots in the Martha Graham tradition. (Lisa Thurrell, (Thurrell) Kanopy's co-artistic director, studied, then professionally performed with the Martha Graham Dance Company in NYC and Spoleto, Italy, between 1987 and 1994, before taking on a leadership role at Kanopy.

*At the heart of Kanopy's **Graham: In HER Voice** ---will be a performance of "Suite from Appalachian Spring", (Appalachian Spring) a slice of pioneer life set to a brilliant score by Aaron Copland--- that speaks to optimism of a young frontier couple on their wedding day. Drawing on Graham's passion for the "American Experience" the master work evokes a landscape that she admired interpreted through the development of stunning visual composition and sublimely difficult technical movement. When it premiered on October 30th, 1944, as World War II was ending, "Appalachian Spring" captured the imagination of Americans--*

hopeful about a brighter future and was pronounced by NY Times critic, Jon Martin, as “shining and joyous”.

Kanopy’s production of “Suite from Appalachian Spring” is set and directed by eminent guest artists, Sandra Kaufmann (Kaufmann) and Miki Orihara-- both Martha Graham Dance Company regisseurs, and former principal dancers with the Company.

Also featured on the program will be two works by Robert E. Cleary, co-artistic director of Kanopy Dance: “Transformations”, (a solo about spiritual change and growth; and “Eve in Her Garden”, a romantic duet. Finally, Thurrell reimagines a work, “Come Months Away”, an imaginative choreography about nature and the passage of time inspired by the Romantic poets: “Emily Bronte, “John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Graham: In HER Voice

Mar 1-Mar 3, 2024 (Fri-Sun)

Friday, 7:30 PM, Saturday, 4:30 PM & 7:30PM; Sunday, 1PM & 4 PM

Tickets (reserved seating): \$40

Groups: 4 or more \$35

Ages 18 & under and Students \$20

Overture.org (608) 258-4141

Kanopy LabWorks

Saturday, Feb 17, 2024, 4:30-5:15PM

Informal Excerpts in Progress: **Graham: In HER Voice**, to be performed March 1-3, 2024, at the Overture Center for the Arts

With Remarks by Robert E. Cleary & Lisa Thurrell

The new **Kanopy LabWorks** offer a special opportunity to connect with our renowned guest artists, creative directors, Company dancers and talented tech crew in a “working studio” setting.

Join us on Saturday, February 17, 2024, for a sneak preview into the art of producing **Graham: In HER Voice** with Kanopy’s co-artistic directors Robert Cleary and Lisa Thurrell, and Kanopy Company dancers.

Admission is free, though donations to support important educational and outreach programs like this are always welcome. Space is limited and registration is required. To reserve, please contact Kanopy’s Associate Director, Susanne Voeltz, susivoeltzpr@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

All **LabWorks** sessions are held at our studio, the Kanopy Center for Modern and Contemporary Dance, 323 W. Mifflin Street, (around the corner from the Overture Center for the Arts. Brief Q&A’s follow the demonstrations.