

**The 19th edition of the *JTI Encounters*
“Martha Graham Dance Company” in Bucharest**

Bucharest, July 15, 2018 - “Martha Graham”, the most famous American dance company, comes to **JTI Encounters!** At the nineteenth edition of the “JTI Encounters”, “Martha Graham Dance Company” shall present on September 19, at 20:00 hours, at the Bucharest National Theatre, five choreographic works: *Dark Meadow*, *Ekstasis*, *Lamentation – Variations*, *Errand into the maze* and *Woodland*.

Martha Graham was recognized as one of the greatest artists of the 20th Century. She established her own company in 1926 in New York to embody her own vision on dance - based on seeking human essence - and the Graham technique is still taught today in choreography schools. During her career of almost 70 years, she conceived over 180 works, collaborating and working with dancers Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rudolf Nureyev, Maya Plisetskaya, and actors including Kirk Douglas, Liza Minnelli and Madonna. The “Martha Graham” Company carries forward the innovative, unique and daring style of an artist who has revolutionized contemporary dance and continues to be a source of priceless inspiration for every new generation of choreographers and dancers.

Dark Meadow Suite was created in 1946 and is made up of highlights from a much longer work by Graham which premiered in 1946 in New York City. *Dark Meadow* was inspired by Graham’s love of the rituals of the natives of both the American Southwest and Mexico. Graham wrote about her own work: “*Dark Meadow* is a re-enactment of the mysteries which attend the eternal adventure of seeking” and the musical score written by the Mexican composer Carlos Chávez for this choreographic moment drastically boosts this experiment.

Ekstasis, created in 1933, is thought to be the 37th creation by Graham. Virginie Mécène, program director at the Martha Graham Company re-imagined the *Ekstasis* version that shall be presented in Bucharest, based on the original solo, including the photos.

Lamentation – Variations was originally conceived in 2007 to commemorate the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Although it was planned to be performed on only one occasion, the audience reception was so enthusiastic, that *Lamentation – Variations* has been added to the permanent repertory of the Martha Graham Dance Company. The work, conceived by the company’s artistic director Janet Eilber together with a group of choreographers, opens with a film of Martha Graham from the early 1940s. The *Variations* were developed under specific creative conditions, each choreographer being asked to create a spontaneous choreographic sketch of their reaction to the Graham film. The conditions required for creating the work included ten hours of rehearsal. The music score is signed by Gustav Mahler, George Crumb and Frédéric Chopin.

Errand into the Maze premiered in 1947 starring Martha Graham herself, who retells the myth of Theseus from Ariadna’s perspective, who journeys into the labyrinth to confront the Minotaur. The current production of the *Errand* was recreated after the damage done to the original sets and costumes by hurricane Sandy. This version, stripped of the classic production elements, is intensely focused on choreography.

Woodland was created in 2016 by choreographer Pontus Lidberg. “Using Irving Fine’s music as the point of departure, rather than using a concept, I heard structure as well as a possible imagery: woodland, moonlight and wandering creatures”, explains Lidberg of his endeavours.

Tickets are available in the EVENTIM, ENTERTIX, and MYSTAGE networks and at the ticket counter of the Bucharest National Theatre.

*We are looking forward to seeing you at the nineteenth edition of **JTI Encounters!***

Launched in 2000 by the famous ballet company “Bejart Ballet Lausanne”, **JTI Encounters** has hosted renowned dancers, choreographers and ballet companies including Nacho Duato and Compania Nacional De Danza, Joaquin Cortes, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Tango Pasion, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Sylvie Guillem and Russell Maliphant, Gigi Căciuleanu and the Chilean National Ballet, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Vortice Dance Company, Maria Pagés and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Akram Khan Company, Mats Ek, Ana Laguna, Susanne Linke and Dominique Mercy, in 2017 “Noism”, the most important contemporary dance company in Japan, and in 2018 the “Martha Graham” Dance Company. The event is organized this year by the Art Production Foundation, with the artistic counselling of Silvia Ghiață.