

DANCEst. NEWS

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DANCE ST. LOUIS PRESENTS MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY EDUCATION PROGRAMS OCTOBER 3–21

ST. LOUIS, October 3, 2011.... From Monday, October 3 through Friday, October 21, Dance St. Louis continues its ongoing commitment to education by bringing in teaching artists from Martha Graham Dance Company for several in-depth education programs leading up to and following the public performances of the company at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on October 14-15.

The programs include intensive in-school residencies, after-school programs, a career night at COCA, and a Young People's Performance at the Touhill.

An in-depth curriculum centering on pioneering choreographer Martha Graham as one of the seminal artists of the 20th century is the focus of the program. Students are learning Graham's revolutionary dance technique, which focuses on the tension of contracted muscles and the flow of energy when they release, as well as modern dance history, nutrition, and other cross-curricular topics.

The teaching artists are holding classes every day during the three-week program at five middle and high schools: Grand Center Arts Academy, University City High School, and St. Louis public schools Carr Lane Visual and Performing Arts Middle School, Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, and McKinley Classical Academy. After-school programs take place once a week at Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Club, Katherine Dunham Center for Arts & Humanities, Normandy High School, and Shaw Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School. A Career Night with a mock audition takes place at COCA in University City on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The students in the in-school residencies and the after-school programs, as well as students from many other area schools, will attend the Young People's Performance at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 14 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The education program continues for the following week.

In addition, St. Louis author Jan Greenberg will visit Grand Center Arts Academy and McKinley Classical Academy classes on the last day of the program to talk with the students about and sign copies of her award-winning book *Ballet for Martha*, the story of the creation of *Appalachian Spring*, a Graham masterwork that is on the program of the Young People's Performance and the public performances on October 14-15.

The radical influence of groundbreaking American dancer, choreographer, and teacher Martha has been compared to Pablo Picasso in art and Frank Lloyd Wright in architecture. Over Graham's eight-decade career, she forever changed the way dancers move, with her sharp, muscular, and emotionally acute choreography. When she died in 1991 at the age of 96, she had recently created her 181st dance and was working on a new one. In 1998, *TIME* Magazine named her the "Dancer of the Century," and *People* Magazine named her one of the "Icons of the Century."

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The two teaching artists are Elizabeth Auclair and Deborah Goodman. Elizabeth Auclair was a principal dancer with Martha Graham Dance Company from 1993 through 2009. She performed many of Graham's own signature roles. She has also performed with numerous other companies, including the Asian American Dance Alliance and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She is currently on the faculty of the Martha Graham School and is an annual guest at the School of Toronto Dance Theater and YBCS Saskatchewan. Deborah Goodman studied with the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, and from 1998 to 2005 she was the assistant and demonstrator for choreographer and dancer Yuriko. She currently lives in Chicago, where she serves on the faculties of The Chicago Academy for the Arts, Loyola University Chicago and The Oak Park Academy of Movement and Music, and dances and choreographs for *Momenta!*

Dance St. Louis conducts two intensive three-week education programs every season in conjunction with the dance companies from around the world that it brings to St. Louis audiences. Dance St. Louis' education programs also include master classes for St. Louis-area dancers conducted with the artistic directors and principal dancers of the visiting companies, special events, and free *Speaking of Dance* talks that take place at the theaters prior to every public performance.

Support for Dance St. Louis education programs has been provided by Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.; Dana Brown Charitable Trust, U.S. Bank Trustee; Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis; William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee; Monsanto Fund; National Endowment for the Arts, and Woodcock Foundation for the Appreciation of the Arts, Inc.

Dance St. Louis is dedicated to the enrichment of the cultural landscape and artistic reputation of St. Louis by presenting great dance companies and educational opportunities that make dance accessible to everyone. Founded in 1966, Dance St. Louis is supported by the Arts and Education Council, Missouri Arts Council, Regional Arts Commission, Mid-America Arts Alliance, National Endowment for the Arts, and other sources. Ameren is the 2011-2012 season sponsor. American Airlines is the official airline.