The New York Times

The Week in Arts

March 30, 2019



PeiJu Chien-Pott of the Martha Graham Dance Company performing in "Chronicle" at the Joyce Theater in New York in 2015. Credit: Andrea Mohin/The New York Times

Dance: Celebrating Women With Martha Graham at the Joyce

April 2-14; joyce.org

As women in the United States exercised their newly won right to vote, after the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920, the modern dance pioneer Martha Graham was summoning a different kind of feminine power. Establishing her company in 1926, she created worlds where women reigned, whether uniting in bold ensembles or starring as formidable protagonists in stories told from female points of view.

That company, still intact, returns to the Joyce Theater in Manhattan with "The EVE Project," a celebration of the 19th amendment's upcoming centennial. The two-week season features all works by women, including premieres by Pam Tanowitz and the team of Maxine Doyle and Bobbi Jene Smith, as well as Annie-B Parson's 2017 "I used to love you" and Lucinda Childs's 1999 duet "Histoire." Graham classics and obscurities, like the potent "Chronicle" and rarely seen "Secular Games," ground the company in its founder's vision — sometimes dated, sometimes enduringly radical.

-Siobhan Burke