# The original documents are located in Box 11, folder "11/16/76 - Kennedy Center - Martha Graham" of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Sheela

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

#### WASHINGTON

November 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO:

FROM:

PETER SORUM SUSAN PORTER Action Memo

SUBJECT:

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-house invitation: EVENT: Martha Graham Performance followed by Benefit Supper GROUP: Performance sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society Supper to benefit the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Incorporated

- DATE: Tuesday, November 16, 1976
- TIME: Performance: 8:00 p.m. Supper: Post-Performance
- PLACE: The Kennedy Center: Performance: Opera House Supper: Golden Circle Room (Second Tier, Opera House)

CONTACT: Mr. Ron Protas Until November 14: O: (212) 832-9166 H: (212) 348-2116

> After November 14: The Madison Hotel 785-1000

COMMENTS: November 15-18 will be an engagement of the Martha Graham Dance Company at the Kennedy Center which is being sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society. Although opening night will be Monday evening, Mrs. Ford will attend the Tuesday, November 16th performance and the supper following in the Golden Circle Room at the Kennedy Center. Although Martha Graham will be on stage that night, she is putting together a guest list for the Presidential Box which, of course, is headed by Mrs. Ford. The supper will be a sit down supper for 50-60 people. The file is attached.

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Thank you.

c: BF Staff Red Cavaney William Nicholson Jerry Jones Terry O'Donnell Sarah Massengale Elizabeth MacBeth Rex Scouten Staircase

BF PENDING TO CONSIDER November 17, 1976 Martha Graham, Kennedy Cntr.

September 23, 1975

Dear Ms. Parker,

Peter Sorum has very kindly forwarded your thoughtful letter bringing to Mrs. Ford's attention the Martha Graham Company's two week engagement at Covent Garden in London on July 19, 1976 and the one week engagement at the Kennedy Center beginning around November 17, 1976. Although the President and Mrs. Ford will no doubt be involved with Bicentennial festivities at the time of the Covent Garden engagement, I have noted the November 17th engagement at the Kennedy Center on the working calendar to keep in mind for consideration closer to that time.

With appreciation and warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter Appointments Secretary for Mrs. Ford

Ms. Cynthia Parker Martha Graham Company 316 East 63rd Street New York, New York 10021

SP/sr

c: VBF Pending to Consider (November 17, 1975, D.C.) Peter Sorum

#### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

#### SUSAN:

a,v

I don't know if there is anything here that you would want to consider, but I pass it along for what it's worth.

PETE



August 14, 1975

Peter Sorum The White House Washington DC

Dear Peter:

THINGS BUSY IN U.S. WITH BICENTEN

Attached is our schedule for the next several months. There are two items I would like to call to your attention in the hope that Mrs. Ford might consider participating in them. If we are being presumptuous in asking this of her, don't hesitate to tell us so.

The first is the opening night of our two week engagement at Covent Garden in London July 19, 1976. I know that it is an election year and that London is a long way away -but Elliott and Anne Richardson have agreed to act as honorary chairmen and we are hopeful that some of the royal family might attend. It will be a joint fund=raising event for the Graham Company and the London School of Contemporary Dance (a Graham step-child) probably with super stars. It is our intention to make it the equal of the NYC gala. It is the first time that Covent Garden has permitted a modern dance company to perform in their hallowed walls and should be a spectacular event.

Nore of Nore of WORKING CALENDAR November 17th ish 1976. Again we intend to have a superspectacular opening night gala etc. The event will be co-sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society. (We will also be performing in Washington March 4-6, 1975 for the Washington Performing Arts Society at Lisner Auditorium But Martha does not plan to be in attendance at that time.

DANCE COMPANY OFFICE TE 2-9166 316 EAST 63 STREET NEW YORK CITY 10021

SCHOOL OFFICE TE 8-5886 Unless, of course, you felt it was useful for some reason.)

Tom Kerrigan is back and is still getting the clipping booklet for June 19th together, but we will forward it as soon as it is ready.

Mrs. Ford has very graciously sent Martha and some of the others photographs. I suspect that they will acknowledge them individually but they were all very touched and grateful.

I've been meaning to write her a fan letter about her 60 Minutes interview. All of the people around here were encouraged by her integrity and sense of reality. So you can count that 35 pro votes.

Thanks again.

Yours,

Gootin Packey

Cynthia Parker

Paul Michel Lepercy Seydoux Frank EVa Gabor Jone ? an Jaho Kach AY Giller KAISER

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MRS. FORD

VIA:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

RED CAVANEY

PETER SORUM

Your Attendance at the Martha Graham Company Performance and Benefit Supper, Tuesday, November 16, 1976

Attached at Tab A is the proposed schedule for the subject event. Attire is black tie and long dress.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

BACKGROUND

The Martha Graham Dance Company will be offering two different programs during the four-day engagement which begins Monday, November 15, 1976. Following the performance which you are attending, a private benefit supper will be held in the Golden Circle Room at the Opera House to be attended by contributors and members of the company. Miss Graham will open the program from the stage and will remain in the wings throughout the performance. At the conclusion, she will join you and your guests in the Presidential Box anteroom before adjourning to the Golden Circle Room.

I black velvet skrit White Satin black cape

#### PROPOSED SCHEDULE

#### MRS. FORD'S ATTENDANCE AT THE MARTHA GRAHAM COMPANY PERFORMANCE AND BENEFIT SUPPER

#### John F. Kennedy Center Opera House Tuesday, November 16, 1976

7:35 p.m. Mrs. Ford boards motorcade on South Grounds.

MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

[Driving time: 10 minutes]

7:45 p.m. MOTORCADE ARRIVES Kennedy Center.

Mrs. Ford proceeds to Opera House Box Tier.

- 7:50 p.m. Mrs. Ford arrives Opera House Presidential Box to greet her guests.
- 7:55 p.m. Mrs. Ford and her guests take their seats
  - 8:00 p.m. Opening remarks by Martha Graham.
  - 8:20 p.m. "Diversion of Angels"
  - 8:40 p.m. Intermission I
  - 9:00 p.m. "Lamentation"
  - 9:05 p.m. "The Plain of Prayer"
  - 9:25 p.m. Intermission II
  - 9:45 p.m. "Night Journey"
  - 10:25 p.m. Performance concludes.
  - 10:35 p.m. Miss Graham arrives box anteroom.

10:45 p.m. Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham depart anteroom en route Golden Circle Room.

<u>NOTE:</u> En route Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham will pause for photo session.

- 10:55 p.m. Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham arrive Golden Circle Room to informally greet guests.
- 11:10 p.m. Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham take their seats for supper.

ll:15 p.m. Supper is served.

ll:45 p.m. Supper concludes.

- 11:45 p.m. Mrs. Ford bids farewell and departs Golden Circle Room en route motorcade for boarding.
- 11:50 p.m. MOTORCADE DEPARTS Kennedy Center en route South Grounds.

[Driving time: 10 minutes]

12:00 midnight MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO:

SUBJECT:

FROM:

11-9 Jan Kendall

PETER SORUM SUSAN PORTER Action Memo

10:30 supper

AP - John Derica UPI - Dennis Cook

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GROUP: Performance sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts
Society
Supper to benefit the Martha Graham Center of
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Thank you.

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Thanks again.

Yours,

Gonshia Parking Cynthia Parker



For immediate release November 12, 1976

#### THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will attend the performance of the Martha Graham Dance Company at the Kennedy Center at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16. She will also attend a supper to benefit the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Incorporated following the performance,

The performance is being sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society.

# # #

7:55 PM approx. --photo opportunity at Opera House Presidential box 10:30 PM approx.--photo opportunity with Mrs. Ford and Martha Graham

### THE WASHINGTON POST Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1976 C11

# A Triumph for Graham

### By Alan M. Kriegsman

Perhaps it was inevitable that the occasion should be outweighed by its own significance. The Martha Graham Dance Company at the Kennedy Center for the first time—maybe no actuality could have done justice to the mere thought of it. In any case, honesty compels one to record that last night's performance was more a symbolic than an artistic triumph, for the most part.

cany ability to evoke what she once called the "primaries" of human experience — in this case, the blinding urgency of sexual passion and the inescapability of tragic destiny. With Phyllis Gutelius as a compell-

ing Jocasta and Tim Wengerd as a virile Oedipus, most of the wrenching force of the drama was preserved, despite the rather diminished Tiresias of Mario Delamo.

In the newly revived "Plain of Prayer" (dating from 1968), it was hard to tell whether the performance, the

# Newsmakers--- LA Times 11/18/76 Pg.2 New First Lady's on the First Team

-"She will be an active First Lady—one of the most the country has ever had," said Mary Hoyt, press secretary to Rosalynn Carter. She plans to be an active policy adviser in her husband's Administration. "She'll be every bit as influential as she has been," Mrs. Hoyt said. "They're a close team." Mrs. Carter also plans to hold frequent news conferences and pursue her interest in the problems of older people and the mentally retarded. Mrs. Hoyt said that Monday, when President-elect Jimmy Carter and President Ford meet to discuss the transfer of power, Mrs. Carter will tour the White House family quarters with Betty Ford.

-First Lady **Betty Ford** made another appearance to support her former dancing teacher, Martha Graham, by attending a two-hour benefit at the Kennedy Center in Washington for Miss Graham's dance company. Mrs. Ford saved on for an after-theater supper until close to 1 a.m.



EVENT: FIRST LADY BETTY FORD TO ATTEND PERFORMANCE OF THE MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY. A SUPPER TO BENEFIT THE MARTHA GRAHAM CENTER OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE TO FOLLOW. TIME: 8 P.M. LOCATION: KENNEDY CENTER. CONTACT: MRS. FORD'S PRESS OFFICE, 456-2164.



END TUESDAY CALENDAR



Art to art talk

8

1976

18

DBER

MONDAY

WASHINGTON — Jamie Wyeth, the artist, had it all figured out. "President Ford is very cognizant of the power of the arts," he said. "That's the new thing in politics."

Wyeth was one member of the Arty Set who gathered at the White House the other night for a black-tie dinner in honor of **Martha Graham**. Even though only a few weeks remain until Election Day and even though the President had conducted a press conference earlier that evening, few of the guests wanted to talk politics.

"I'm out to lunch until Nov. 3," laughed longtime Democrat Nina Auchincloss Straight, shrugging off a question about her presidential preference. "But I'm really impressed by the





# t talk

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## Personalities

First Lady Betty Ford attended a Kennedy Center benefit for the Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance Tuesday night and stayed for supper afterward. Also at the theater and the supper party were Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, actress Eva Gabor, her husband Frank Jamieson, television anchorwoman Barbara Walters, Ford economic adviser Alan Greenspan and actress Polly Bergen.

Rosalynn Carter, the next First

Ronald Winston, son of New York jeweler Harry Winston, is a "family confidence."

Francis Gary Powers, the U2 pilot whose shooting down over the Soviet Union led to the breakup of an Eisenhower-Khrushchev summit meeting in 1960, has joined KNBC in Los Angeles as a helicopter pilot and reporter. The station's telecopter transmits live pictures from the air above news scenes. and the show's new hostess, and Tabor Bolden, the station manager, stood in line for two hours greeting well-wishers who included Mayor Walter Washington, City Council chairman Sterling Tucker, and City Council members Marion Barry and Douglas Moore.

Two Washington artists, sculptor Yuri Schwebler and photographer John Gossage, are among the 19 Americans invited to participate in the 10th Biennale de Paris, the interand Mrs. Charles Swan Weber, a wellknown volunteer. A posthumous citation went to Russell Abbott of the D.C. Lung Association.

Shirley Temple Black says that although she voted for President Ford she would like to keep her job as Chief of protocol under Jimmy Carter.... Andre Malraux, 75-yearold French writer, is suffering from an infection, a result of a lung congestion operation three months ago.

#### THE WASHINGTON F Thursday, Nov. 18, 1976