

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, June 18, 1975

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

Mrs. Ford will attend the world premiere of the new Martha Graham ballet, "Lucifer" Thursday, June 19 at 8:00 p.m. at the Uris Theatre in New York City.

The ballet, to be performed by Dame Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev, is a one-time benefit for the Martha Graham Dance Company.

The occasion is the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Martha Graham Dance Company, which gave its first performance at the 48th Street Theatre in New York on April 18, 1926. Mrs. Ford studied and danced with Martha Graham in the late 30's and early 40's in New York City.

Mrs. Ford is Honorary Chairman for the Gala Celebration.

Mrs. Ford will be met at Uris Theatre by Martha Graham student Woody Allen. They will be joined by actress Diane Keaton and Francis Mason, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Inc.

Among those also attending the premiere are New York Governor Hugh Carey, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Lauren Bacall, Danny Kaye, Ali MacGraw, and Steve McQueen.

The Martha Graham Dance Company estimates it will raise about \$200,000.

American fashion designer Halston has created the costumes for Dame Margot and Nureyev and has designed Miss Graham and Mrs. Ford's gowns for the evening. The costumes and gowns will be donated to the Martha Graham Dance Company for later auction for the Company's benefit.

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Press Contact: Tom Kerrigan 212/643-1249

