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With verve and nearly single-handedly, Martha Graham brought her dance style into the 20th century. She did nothing less than create an entirely new genre of dance, while shattering the expectations of audiences and critics alike with her percussive, angular movement style. She was one of the first dancers to collaborate with contemporary composers instead of using the 18th- and 19th-century compositions her predecessors favored. Her dances have been called “motion pictures for the sophisticated”; her theories on movement and kinesthetics are still vital today; and there is scarcely a dancer alive who doesn’t owe a huge debt to her sharp creative mind and fierce perfectionism.

And to think she could have made it her entire life without experiencing the arts. Just like so many kids today.

Each day, more and more of the arts are being completely drained from our children’s schools. Yet studies show parents believe dance and music and art and drama make their kids better students and better people. So what can you do to reverse this trend? Speak up now. Demand your child’s fair share of the arts. To find out how to help, or for more information about the benefits of arts education, please visit us at AmericansForTheArts.org. Otherwise, even a legacy as rich as Martha Graham’s can crumble to nothing.

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