

GRACE AND KURT

GRAFF

Meadow Hearth . Hopkinton . New Hampshire

February 12, 1948

To whom it may concern:

In the winter of 1940 at the request of Nell Dorr we appeared with our group at the studio of David Smart near Chicago, to have a moving picture made of our original dance composition " the Singing Earth ".

We were asked to come there by Mrs. Dorr, and being intensely interested in experimenting with the Dance in moving pictures, we were paid nothing for our services in making this film of Kurt Graffs choreography.

We did not expect to be paid for this, nor do we wish to make any claim on this film of Nell Dorrs.

David Smart relinquished any legal rights to this film although it was shot in his studio where he employed a steady staff of technical assistants.

Mr. Smart had invited Mrs. Dorr to come to Chicago and make a moving picture of anything she chose. He must have expected her to do some sort of nude-movie since he was only familiar with her photographs appearing in his publication " Coronet ". He was furious that she choose to take a picture of our dancing, and his reaction to the simplicity and innocent subject matter of the " Singing Earth " was violent.

Before Mrs. Dorr left Chicago we heard Mr. Smart tell her she could take the film. He said that as far as he was concerned it was going into the garbage can but it was hers if she wanted it, and she could sweep up all the pieces.

During the past year Mrs. Dorr and we have revised and remodeled the entire choreographic form of the film, a new musical score has been composed for it by Arthur Kleiner. The expense of the music and recording of the voice and the entire editing of the film has been entirely Mrs. Dorrs.

Kurt Graff
Nell Dorr