

# Pointe/Counterpoint

In the time since Martha Graham and the early modern dancers broke away from the concepts of Classical Ballet, the two types of dance have informed each other. Many contemporary ballet choreographers use the elements of modern dance and even Martha, in her later works, used some balletic techniques. There is a symbiotic relationship now. The style of ballet has broadened and changed considerably through the influence of the modern dance revolution.

## *Ballet* vs. **Modern**

### Movement

- classical vocabulary
- very stylized
- airy grace, decorative lines, the appearance of no effort
- assymetric
- blunt, primal
- incorporates everyday movements - theatricalizes naturalistic gesture (body language)

### Subtext of Movement

- escapeist themes about royalty, animals and flowers brought to life, exotic places and people
- themes about the human condition, real emotions and needs, a view of ourselves

### Torso

- held taut
- rhythmic flux of torso

### Arms/Legs/Hands

- positions and movement are traditional designs
- an extension of torso movement
- striving toward natural/primal

### Feet

- pointed shoes
- trying to float across stage
- turned out
- no shoes/barefooted
- showing the effort of weight
- grounded in the earth
- born out of natural movement

