

## **MARTHA GRAHAM TECHNIQUE: CATERINA RAGO**

Originally from Italy, Caterina Rago is the Artistic Director of the Caterina Rago Dance Company and the Co- Founder and Producer of Tecniche Di Danza Moderna. She obtained her B.F.A. from l'Accademia Nazionale di Danza in Rome. While there, she was a company member of Danzare La Vita under direction of Elsa Piperno with choreographer Joseph Fontano, President of the International Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute of UNESCO; and an aerial dancer in Kitonb Extreme Theatre Company directed by Angelo Bonello. In 2006, Rago was chosen to perform Ivan Manzoni's "Simbolo Della Pace" at the Inaugural Ceremony of the XX Winter Olympic Games in Torino. After moving to New York she completed the Professional Training Program at Martha Graham Center and was invited to present her work, "Eternal Return", at the 2008 Graham II New York Season.

In New York, Rago has danced with I Giullari di Piazza directed by Alessandra Belloni, Nu Dance Theatre, Hunter Performance Group, Mare Nostrum Elements, Graham II and in 2009 she joined the Martha Graham Dance Company. She has performed work from Robert Battle, Pearl Lang, Virginie Mecene and Lone Kjaer Larsen. She was Principal Dancer of the Off-Broadway Show Spider Dance directed by Jeff Whiting and toured Italy in the original cast of Cercando Picasso, with the Martha Graham Dance Company, directed by Antonio Calenda e Giorgio Albertazzi. After the great success of Cercando Picasso, Rago danced in two Greek Tragedies: Baccanti directed by Antonio Calenda and Prometeo, by Claudio Longhi, at the Anfiteatro Greco of Siracusa, Sicily. Throughout her career, Rago has received Among numerous honors and awards. Rago received an official invitation to the 33rd World Congress of the International Theatre Institute ITA in Xiamen, China, was Guest Artist in Kiev, Budapest, Brussels, and Montalto Uffugo for the Ruggiero Leoncavallo Gala Opera Competition. She was movement consultant to photographer Sebastian Faena for fashion spreads in V Magazine and Vogue. She was a guest artist for IX Festival Nostos "viaggio di ritorno" at the Accademia Nazionale di Danza in Rome, Italy. Rago officially founded the Caterina Rago Dance Company (CRDC) in 2007. Caterina presented her original work in the Graham II 2008 season, and in many festival and showcases throughout New York City and Italy. In 2010 two sold-out performances at the MMAC marked CRDC's debut season. The company's work was selected for White Wave Rising Series Festival, Kat Wildish's NYC Showcase at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, and NYC Dance Week at Dixon Place, IDACO Italian Dance Connection, Emerging Choreographer Series, Take Root and Fertile Ground at Green Space, Steps Beyond Foundation, HATCH Jennifer Muller The Works, The Dance Gallery and choreographed at Jazz at Lincoln Center in the opera La Nave with I Giullari di Piazza. CRDC presented in 2013 the premiere of their evening-

length work, *Fall in Autumn*, at MMAC. Caterina has received Company Commissions for Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation, the Accademia Nazionale di Danza in Rome, Italy and Peridance Capezio Center. Selected as the 2016 Emerging Choreographer for the MET Dance Company, Houston, Texas. CRDC recently premiered “*Labir Into*” at the New York Live Arts in collaboration with the renown set designer, Pier Paolo Bisleri. Rago also teaches Graham Technique at Dance Theatre of Harlem and Peridance Capezio Center and Broadway Dance Center. Rago has restaged Graham’s *Panorama* (1935) for the students of the Accademia Nazionale Di Danza performed on June 2016 for the *Soirees DansAnd* in Rome and for the *American Dream di Karole Armitage* for the Ravello Festival 2016. She continues to be a guest teacher of numerous dance centers in Italy and New York City. Rago has created “*Tecniche di Danza Moderna*” an initiative to bring American modern dance teachers to Italy. Each month, three teachers will travel to the Istituto Pio IX in Rome, where they will introduce Italian students to Graham, Limón and Horton techniques through weekend intensives. The faculty will rotate over the course of the one-year program. Selected teachers include Rago, Kenneth Topping and former Graham company principal Maurizio Nardi, former Limón company members Ryoko Kudo and Pablo Francisco Ruvalcaba, and Horton technique teachers Karen Gayle, Bradley Shelver and Kristina Berger. Rago recently joined *The Deborah Zall Project In The Company of Woman*.