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Scripps College to Host Hip-Hop Mogul Dessa

CLAREMONT, CA (February 28, 2019) — Scripps College will host Dessa—rapper, music executive, and author of the memoir-in-essays *My Own Devices: True Stories from the Road on Music, Science, and Senseless Love*—on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Garrison Theater on the Scripps campus as part of the College’s signature event series, Scripps Presents.

Dessa breaks new ground as an internationally touring female rapper and the sole female member of the Minneapolis-based hip-hop collective Doomtree. The former medical writer and philosophy graduate will share stories from her life as well as offer an intimate look into the inner workings of the male-dominated music industry in a conversation with novelist and *LA Times*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Village Voice* pop culture writer, Margaret Wappler.

The 35-year-old is a case study in creativity (she’s a regular on the Billboard Top 200 list), social entrepreneurship (she frequently collaborates with socially focused companies to benefit various organizations and initiatives), and intellectual leadership (she has spoken at the Mayo Clinic’s Transform Conference and given a TEDx talk).

Dessa’s music plays with convention, weaving electronica, classical arrangement, rap, pop, and spoken-word poetry into immersive and surprising pieces that teach the listener about love, loss, and her evolving life as a woman. Her newest album, *Chime*, is described as a “blazing indictment of gender dynamics,” and was partially inspired by her foray into neuroscience to help heal a broken heart: When Dessa asks, “*What if I could cure me of you? / Am I so sure which pill I’d choose?*” she is in part referencing the fMRI scan, EEG readings, and neurofeedback training program she undertook to help rid herself of obsessive thoughts about her ex.

Dessa’s appearance at Scripps will also offer a rare glimpse into the inner-workings of Doomtree, of which Dessa is the only woman of seven members. She was CEO of the Doomtree record label briefly beginning in 2016, becoming one of the younger—and among the very few—female executives in the music industry.

Scripps College was founded in 1926 by Ellen Browning Scripps, a pioneering philanthropist and influential figure in the worlds of education, publishing, and women’s rights. Today, Scripps is a nationally top-ranked liberal arts college and women’s college with approximately 980 students, and is a member of The Claremont Colleges in Southern California. The mission of Scripps College is to educate women to develop their intellects and talents through active participation in a community of scholars, so that as graduates they may contribute to society through public and private lives of leadership, service, integrity, and creativity.