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Women's "Wicked Bodies" Take the Stage in a New Work by Iconic Choreographer Liz Lerman

CLAREMONT, CA (January 28, 2019) — Iconic choreographer Liz Lerman will premiere *Wicked Bodies* at Scripps College on Tuesday, February 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Balch Auditorium. The performance is the culminating event in Lerman's yearlong residency at Scripps and presents a rare opportunity to glimpse the artist's process as she presents her work in progress.

A key aspect of Lerman's process is engaging in multidisciplinary research to create danceworks that are participatory, relevant, urgent, and usable by others, and *Wicked Bodies* is no exception. Perfect for the #metoo era, the piece takes up "wicked women" as its subject in order to explore how women's bodies historically have been interpreted, portrayed, legislated, and negated. In her research, Lerman has delved into cultural histories of the witch and the ways in which she has been represented in art, literature, and popular media; she has also taken inspiration from many real-life sly, grotesque, sensual, and wildly creative women throughout history. She has also drawn from Scripps College's extensive Witches and Healing Archive as well as from studies on disability, incarceration, and civil rights, among other related topics.

Born in Los Angeles, Lerman is an internationally recognized choreographer who the *Washington Post* has described as "the source of an epochal revolution in the scope and purposes of dance art." Her dance/theater works have been presented at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, Lincoln Center in New York, and the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis, and she is the recipient of the 2015 American Dance Guild Lifetime Achievement Award and a 2012 MacArthur Fellow. Lerman is currently Institute Professor at the [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](#) at [Arizona State University](#) in Tempe, Arizona, where she leads programs and courses that span disciplines across the university.

In addition to drawing on archival resources at Scripps College, Lerman has been meeting with Scripps students and faculty as part of her research process and will be incorporating their ideas and input—and, in some cases, their bodies—into the performance.

Wicked Bodies is presented as part of Scripps College's Scripps Presents public events series. The event is free and open to the public; reservations are required. For more information, visit scrippscollege.edu/scrippspresents.

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.