

La ALTERNATIVA (formerly MOTIONLAB), directed by dancer Kathleen Hermesdorf and musician Albert Mathias in San Francisco, is a vessel and instrument for deeply integrated dance and music, collaboration, exchange, and international interdisciplinary action, offering performance, production and training since 1998. The stage work has been deemed “strongly original”, “intensely convincing”, and containing “feral impulse and raw beauty”. The organization has received support from the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, CASH/Theatre Bay Area, and perpetual residency and presentation from ODC Theater. Current projects include *edge* with light & visual designer Elaine Buckholtz, *Etranger* with video artist Yoann Trelu and musician Laurent Lavolé, and *Armario #3* by Omar Carrum. La ALTERNATIVA is currently in residence at KUNST-STOFF arts, where Hermesdorf is co-Education Director via the Alternative Conservatory, an immersive, intensive, modular and mobile international training ground focused in and on the field with satellite collaborations in Germany/Stephanie Maher of Ponderosa/Stolzenhagen, and Mexico/Claudia Lavista and Omar Carrum of Delfos/Mazatlán. www.la-alternativa.us

Kathleen Hermesdorf is the Artistic Director of La ALTERNATIVA and the Alternative Conservatory and co-Education Director with Yannis Adoniou at KUNST-STOFF arts. Her style has been called luscious, sensate and mercurial. She has been a member of Bebe Miller & Company (2006 BESSIE Award), Margaret Jenkins Dance Company (1999 IZZIE Award) and Contraband/Sara Shelton Mann, and has worked in long-term collaboration with Scott Wells (1994 GOLDIE Award), Stephanie Maher and Kim Epifano, among others. Hermesdorf has extensive and outstanding training in modern and post-modern dance modalities, improvisation and contact improvisation, various martial and somatic investigations, and holds a BFA and MFA in Dance Performance & Pedagogy. She has been dancing in the Bay Area since 1991 and has received significant support from the Zellerbach Family Foundation, CHIME/MJDC and the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Albert Mathias is the Music Director of La ALTERNATIVA. He is a multi-disciplinary musician whose focus contains accompaniment, composition and sound design for dance, theater, video and film, as well as solo performance works. His score for the company's evening-length *BLUE 2000* was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Award and featured in *Artists in Exile*, a Bay Area dance documentary by RAPT Productions. He has released 7 works for CD Audio. Mathias was a member of Bebe Miller & Company for BESSIE Award winner *Landing/Place* and *Necessary Beauty*, a member of the multi-disciplinary performance group, Contraband from 1995-97, and the primary percussionist for international touring/recording artists, LiveHuman, an improvisation-based trio with bassist Andrew Kushin and DJ Quest, from 1998-2008. The band released 4 critically acclaimed albums. Mathias attended California Institute for the Arts, and has had the honor of private study with legends Pandit Swapan Chauduri, Sri Ravi Bellare, and Tony Williams.