

Melbourne Premiere

MDLSX

# by Motus

31 January – 2 February

Presented by Arts House and Midsumma Festival



Warning: Nudity,  
strobe lighting

[artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au)

Artist Credits

**Silvia Calderoni**  
Performer and playwright

**Enrico Casagrande**  
Director and sound designer

**Daniela Nicolò**  
Director and playwright

**Paolo Panella and Damiano Bagli**  
Sound design collaborators

**Alessio Spirli**  
Video and light design

**Elisa Bartolucci and Sonia Bettucci**  
Production

**Shaila Chenet**  
Logistics

**Marta Lovato**  
Communication

**Lisa Gilardino**  
International distribution



## Artist Statement

MDLSX is an explosive sound device, a lysergic and solitary hymn to the freedom of becoming, to gender b(l)ending, to being other than the borders of the body, skin colour, sexual organs, being other than an imposed or acquired nationality, a belonging to a Fatherland.

In *On Becoming Europeans*, Rosi Braidotti refers to a post-nationalist identity by speaking of “an open belonging to Multiplicities”. MDLSX aims to go beyond categories (including the artistic categories too). It is Silvia Calderoni’s road trip who, after 10 years with Motus, experiments with a Dj/Vj set-like format in order to start an exploration around borders.

Autobiographical moments and literary evocations come together, and MDLSX, by blurring action and reality, swings from *Gender Trouble* to *Undoing Gender*. Quoting Judith Butler who, with Donna Haraway’s *A Cyborg Manifesto*, Paul B. Preciado’s *Manifiesto Contra-sexual* and other bits of the kaleidoscopic universe of *Queer*, weaves the background of this “monster-performance”.

The change needed is so profound that it is impossible to say. So deep that says it is unimaginable. But the impossible is to come. And the unthinkable is due. (“Feminism is not a humanism”, Paul B. Preciado).

## Directors Enrico Casagrande and Daniela Nicolò

Motus was founded in 1991 in Rimini by Enrico Casagrande and Daniela Nicolò, the group burst onto the scene with productions wielding great physical and emotional impact and has always anticipated and portrayed some of the harshest contradictions of the present day. Throughout the years, the group has created theatre shows, performances, installations and videos, conducted seminars and workshops, taken part in interdisciplinary festivals.

They’ve received numerous acknowledgements, including three UBU Prizes and prestigious special awards for their work. Freethinkers, Motus have performed all over the world, from *Under the Radar* in New York, to *Festival Trans Amériques* in Montreal, *PuSh Festival* in Vancouver, *Santiago a Mil* (Chile), the *Fiba Festival* in Buenos Aires, *Adelaide Festival* in Australia or *Taipei Arts Festival* in Taiwan, as well as all over Europe.

**Silvia Calderoni**  
Performer

Silvia Calderoni began her career at an early age with Teatro Valdoca, and since 2006 has worked with Motus, specially creating performances exploring her androgyny.

Her performances include Cruel Tales of Youth (2007), Antigone in Syrma Antigònes (2009), The Plot is the Revolution (2011), Nella Tempesta (2013) and internationally acclaimed MDLSX (2015).

She has also worked extensively for cinema: in 2011 she starred alongside Vincent Gallo in Davide Manuli's film The Legend of Kaspar Hauser, and later she acted in feature films under the direction of Roberta Torre, Francesca Comencini and Roberto Andò, as well as in various music videos.

Calderoni was awarded many prizes: UBU for Best Actress Under 30 (2009), MArte Award for Best Actress (2013), Elizabeth Turrone award for Best Actress (2014), Virginia Reiter Prize for the Best Italian Actress Under 35 (2015), Best Performer Award at Dublin Fringe Festival and at Sarajevo MESS Festival (2017).

## Upcoming at Arts House

### Dance Massive 12 – 24 March

Australia's biggest festival of contemporary dance

#### Featuring

Lucy Guerin Inc  
Marrugeku  
Force Majeure  
Antony Hamilton Projects  
Melanie Lane  
Luke George and Collaborators  
Paul White and Narelle Benjamin  
Madeleine Krenek and Frankie Snowdon

Paea Leach and Alexandra Harrison  
Joel Bray  
Karul Projects  
Alice Will Caroline  
DubaiKungkaMiyalk  
Jo Lloyd

### Spectral 11 – 18 April

Exhibitions and shows exploring light and sound

#### Featuring

Robin Fox  
Jannah Quill  
Hanna Chetwin

Kusum Normoyle  
Meagan Streader

## Thanks

In collaboration with La Villette - Résidence d'artistes 2015 Paris, Create to Connect (EU project) Bunker/ Mladi Levi Festival Lubiana, Santarcangelo 2015 Festival Internazionale del Teatro in Piazza, L'arboreto - Teatro Dimora di Mondaino, MARCHE TEATRO with the support of MiBACT, Regione Emilia Romagna

## Acknowledgement of Country

Arts House acknowledges the traditional land upon which we are located, of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nation; and we pay our respects to Elders both past and present, and, through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## Information

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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