

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

KLAP - THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES 2024



ANA MIRIANASHVILI (GEORGIA)

THEATRE RESEARCHER - ASSITEJ SAKARTVELO (GEORGIA). TBILISI STATE YOUTH THEATRE

Doctor of Arts Science, Theatre Critic, Theatre Researcher, Blogger, Translator/Editor, Head of the literary department at Tbilisi State Youth Theatre, Assitej Sakartvelo - vice president.

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HARRISON MULEYA (ZAMBIA)

TEACHER - SENTINEL KABITAKA SCHOOL

I am a teacher of music and drama at sentinel kabitaka. We are affiliated to ASSITEJ Zambia and I am deputy president of ASSITEJ Zambia. I also run the performing arts club at our school, have participated in international projects hosted by takatuka from slovenia, have participated severally in the International Children's Festival of Performing Arts in India. Partnered in Youth Runner project with Ambitia of German in 2022. I am playwright and director of children and young people's plays.

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JIHANE CHAKRI (MOROCCO)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR. TEACHER & PLAYWRIGHT

Jihane Chakri holds a doctorate in the field of theater for young audiences and educational dramatic practices in schools. Graduate of the Higher Institute of Dramatic Art and Cultural Animation and currently a professor at the same institute, (subject taught: theater for young audiences). she is a playwright, director and trainer specializing in dramatic practices for schools. jihane is the president of the SIMANE association for the art of puppetry and shows for young audiences.

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DELGERMAA BAZARRAGCHAA (MONGOLIA)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - ASSITEJ MONGOLIA

Delgermaa Bazarragchaa. Editor and writer of one of the biggest publishing companies of Mongolia, Tagtaa Publishing LLC. Also poet, children's writer, literary translator and a literary editor and aspiring playwright. Based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Majored in literary studies and journalism. I am more known for my poetry and children's book in my country. I became a member of ASSITEJ MONGOLIA in this year.

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ZOLJARGAL OCHIRBAT (MONGOLIA)

ACTOR & DIRECTOR - ASSITEJ MONGOLIA

My name is Zoljargal. I'm 29 years old. Education - Bachelors degree of "Stage and screen actor and director" at School of Theater arts of Mongolian University of Arts and Culture (MNUAC) 2012-2016.

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TÜLIN SAĞLAM (TÜRKIYE)

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Giving lectures on theater-dramaturgy, TYA, drama in education and running workshops at different institutions, running a very small company doing theater for very young, Member of Assitej Türkiye and ITYARN.

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MARIA AULETTA (IRELAND/ITALY)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - TEATROLETTA

Maria Auletta is the artistic director and producer of Teatroletta. A theatre company that makes non-verbal (or almost) shows for young audiences. The company includes musicians, circus performers, and puppeteers. Maria is originally from Italy and based in Ireland. Former circus performer. Core values in my profession encompass playfulness, curiosity, and imagination, mixed with a passion for movement. Her last work is "The Word Factory" show for children age 5 to 8.

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FELICIA CUCUTA (ROMANIA)

PLAYWRIGHT / FREELANCER

Originally from Romania, I left my home country about ten years ago and, at the moment, I split my time between North America and Europe. I write mostly in English and French, but I like to mix in Romanian too. Focusing on care ethics in contemporary theatre as a PhD student at Harvard University, I have constantly kept in touch with the world of creative writing and performance. I have written texts touching on migration, human rights and mental health, and have studied creative writing in the US under the guidance of brilliant artists to whom I will always be grateful.

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ELIF TEMUÇIN (TÜRKIYE)

ACTRESS & DIRECTOR - TIYATRO BEREZE

Elif trained at Ankara University Theatre Department as playwright, where she also graduated from the MFA Program in 2007. She has also been trained in Physical Acting at The Commedia School in Copenhagen, Denmark. Elif is co-founder of Tiyatro BeReZe, whom she has been working with since 2007. Elif is still working at Tiyatro BeReZe, MishMash International Theatre Company (Denmark) and Bremer Shakespeare Company (Germany) as actress, author and director.

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MANON MAFRICI (FRANCE)

CHOREOGRAPHER - GIPSY RAW

A young multidisciplinary dancer, she develops its hybrid style in drawing on all his experiences. Her dance resembles him: generous, passionate and open to the world. At the age of 18, Manon entered the world of creation by succeeding in first audition for the company international ARTMOVE CONCEPT, led by Soria Rem & Mehdi Ouatchek.

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PASQUALE FORTUNATO (ITALY)

CHOREOGRAPHER - GIPSY RAW

Pasquale Fortunato (Paco Power) is born in a family of dancers. He grows and evolves in the dance school family: Scarpette Rosa. He becomes one of the most influential bboys in Italy. Having for specialty the figure that we call the 90's (rotation on one hand), it carries his asset is the record of 26 laps.

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RÓISÍN WHELAN (IRELAND)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER - R.W.D

Róisín Whelan is a dance artist based in Ireland. She creates highly physical and technically demanding works with strong narratives. Recent choreographic work includes 'The Glasshouse' commissioned by Ballet Ireland; The Galaxy of Occupations, a dance show for young audiences commissioned by Tipperary International Dance Festival and Dublin City Council Creative Hubs; Man Down funded by Arts Council Touring Award.

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HILLA HANHELA (FINLAND)

ART PEDAGOGY STUDENT - UNIVERSITY OF ARTS HELSINKI

I am theatre pedagogy master student currently studying at University of Arts Helsinki.

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SARA HELMI ELOISA POLLARI (FINLAND)

STUDENT - UNIVERSITY OF ARTS HELSINKI

Sara Pollari is a theatre pedagogy and music education student from University of the Arts Helsinki. She is a performer, musician, mover and teacher. Her recent interests are softness, calmness, holistic pedagogy and interdisciplinary perspectives.

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ALESSIA D'ANDREA (ITALY)

PARTNER OF THE FORESTEEN PROJECT - CNR-IRPPS

Alessia D'Andrea is researcher at the Institute of Research on Population and Social Policies of the National Research Council of Italy. She received the degree in Communication Science from the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in 2006. She received the Ph.D. degree in Multimedia Communication at the University of Udine sponsored by the IRPPS of the National Research Council of Italy in 2011.

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ARIANNA D'ULIZIA (ITALY)

PARTNER OF THE FORESTEEN PROJECT - CNR-IRPPS

Arianna D'Ulizia is a researcher at the Institute of Research on Population and Social Policies of the National Research Council of Italy. She received an M.S. in computer science engineering from the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in 2005 and a Ph.D. in computer science and automation from the University of "Roma Tre" in 2009. She is mainly interested in human-computer interaction, accessibility, social computing, social innovation, and co-creation strategies.

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NICOLA SCHERER (GERMANY)

RESEARCHER - UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES NIEDERRHEIN

Prof. Dr. Nicola Scherer studied fine and performing arts, as well as philosophy at the University of Fine Arts and the Technical University of Braunschweig, as well as the Master of Advanced Studies in Cultural Management at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and Curating in the Performing Arts in Salzburg/ Munich. She wrote her dissertation on international theater festivals at the Institute for Cultural Policy at the University of Hildesheim.

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CAMILLA ANDERZÉN (FINLAND)

STUDENT - UNIVERSITY OF ARTS HELSINKI

Theatre Pedagogy (MA) student.

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CHENHUI MAO (CHINA)

DIRECTOR, COOPERATION & COORDINATION DEPARTMENT - CHINA WELFARE INSTITUTE
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YANNICK BOUDEAU (BELGIUM)

PRODUCER - COMPAGNIE LA CASQUETTE

I am a producer and I live in Brussels. I have been working in TYA for more than 15 years. I am also the chair of Assitej Belgium, and member of the Executive Committee of Assitej International. I co-wrote and co-designed the Babel project.

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MIKKO DAHLSTRÖM (FINLAND)

THEATRE PEDAGOGY STUDENT (MA) - UNIVERSITY OF ARTS HELSINKI

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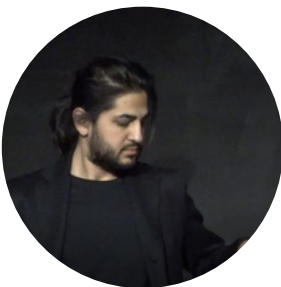


NÓRI VARGA (HUNGARY/FINLAND)

THEATRE PEDAGOGUE, RESEARCHER & ARTIST - HOUSE OF NEW THEATRE, ÅBO AKADEMI UNIVERSITY

Nóri Varga is a Helsinki based theatre pedagogue, researcher, producer, and theatre artist. Currently, she is pursuing her PhD at the Faculty of Education and Welfare Studies of Åbo Akademi University on racism, antisemitism, and theatre pedagogy. She has been a facilitator and the coordinator of Theatre of the Future, free theatre workshops offered for youngsters in Helsinki by NTH and HNT. As a foreign-born artist, pedagogue, and creative professional she wishes and lobby for inclusivity.

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MEHRZAD KATEB (IRAN/BELGIUM)

PUPPETEER & ACTOR

I am a creative young artist with many years of experience in various theater areas. I acquired skills in performing arts, puppetry and object theater through my university education and different professional activities in Iran and Belgium. I work in Brussels in a theater for young audiences as a puppeteer and deliver puppetry workshops. I have participated in several international projects where I performed, learned, and shared ideas. I live in Belgium and speak English, French and Persian.

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VALERIE EICHMANN (GERMANY)

CULTURAL MANAGER AND EDUCATOR & FORESTEEN PARTNER - ASSITEJ GERMANY / KINDER- UND JUGENDTHEATERZENTRUM IN DER BUNDESREPUBLIK GERMANY

My name is Valerie Eichmann. I am living in Germany and working at ASSITEJ Germany and Kinder- und Jugendtheaterzentrum. As a cultural manager and educator I am interested in changes of perspectives and the question how children and youth can participate in theatre.

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YELU JIN (CHINA)

DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE & PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT - CHINA WELFARE INSTITUTE
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RIKU SAASTAMOINEN (FINLAND)

UNIVERSITY LECTURER - UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS HELSINKI

Riku Saastamoinen works as a university lecturer in theatre art at the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki, leads the Master's Programme in Theatre Pedagogy.

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SUSI MULLER (LUXEMBURG/BELGIUM)

PRODUCTION MANAGER & DRAMA FACILITATOR - AGORA THEATER ST.VITH/ BELGIUM

Susi Muller works as a freelance theatermaker on projects and productions for and with young people. She is an active member of the AGORA Theatre in St Vith/ Belgium. AGORA creates theater that crosses borders and languages and concerns everyone: children, young people and adults. Due to its exceptional geographical location - in between Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg - the multilingual theater has developed into an institution of cross-border experiences.

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IDA NØRFELT LUND (DENMARK)

ACTOR

Danish actor and a part of the Babel project - the art of listening creation

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LI SHEN (CHINA)

PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER - CHINA WELFARE INSTITUTE CHILDREN'S ART THEATRE

President, China Welfare Institute Children's Art Theatre.

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MARGOT-MARIE WOOD (SOUTH AFRICA)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - STORYWOOD INCLUSIVE ARTS

I am a teaching artist and theatre-maker specializing in children's theatre and theatre for audiences with complex needs.

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JURE LAJOVIC (SLOVENIA)

ACTOR - LUTKOVNO GLEDALIŠČE LJUBLJANA (LJUBLJANA PUPPET THEATRE)

Born in 1976, finished the academy in 2008, in Ljubljana puppet theatre since 2010.

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ALEX BYRNE (UNITED KINGDOM)

WORKSHOP LEADER - BABEL PROJECT

I am Theatre Director based in the UK. Artistic Director of New International Encounter and one of the Workshop Leaders of the Babel Project.

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GREGORY HALL (UNITED KINGDOM/FRANCE)

WORKSHOP LEADER / COMPOSER - BABEL PROJECT / NIE

I am a musician, composer and performer.

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HAYLEIGH SMILLIE (SCOTLAND/THE NETHERLANDS)

DANCER - DE STILTE

My name is Hayleigh and I am a Scottish modern dancer working at De Stilte in The Netherlands. I studied at Codarts in Rotterdam before working in companies and freelancing throughout Europe. I love to meet new people and collaborate and so I am very much looking forward to the festival!

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JAIME PASTOR (SPAIN)

ACTOR, CLOWN & MUSICIAN - GOUTAS TEATRO

Actor-mime, musician, clown and stage director, Pastor develops international projects and belongs to Slava's Snowshow (France) touring in Korea, Istanbul, Italy, Dubai or China. His language based on physical theater, live music, object theater and certain cinematographic dyes, has allowed him to collaborate and create productions for institutions such as the European Parliament, Royal Opera Theatre of Spain, BMW-MINI, Ministère de la Culture de France or the Edinburgh Fringe.

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SARA LANZI (ITALY)

ACTRESS - LA BARACCA - TESTONI RAGAZZI

Sara started attending theatre workshops at primary school. She joined the Baracca as a workshop leader, usher and actress. Over the years she has collaborated with many cultural associations working in the field of children activities, and since 2012 she is an employee of La Baracca – Testoni Ragazzi. She took part in the creation of several productions for children and young people, and she leads theatre workshops for nursery schools, kindergartens and primary schools.

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KRISTINA MAURUSEVICIUTE (LITHUANIA)

ACTRESS - THEATRE STORIES (IN LITHUANIAN TEATRO ISTORIJOS)

I am an actress, director, theatre company "Theatre Stories" co-creator. Our performances focus on urgent topics in modern society (Manipulation in "Traps," Asperger's syndrome in "Galaxies"). Special attention is paid to poetry and the gentrification of the city ("Urban Poems") and nurturing the young generation's relationship with nature ("Poems of Thickets"). Our latest premiere has been nominated for the the highest Lithuanian theater awards in the Best performance for children category.

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MARIA CASELLAS (SPAIN/CATALUNYA)

ACTRESS, SINGER & DIRECTOR - EL PETIT / LA SALA

I'm an actress and a singer who also directs. My career has been very versatile with more than fifteen years of experience in acting. Now, with Inspira Teatre, my company, we are preparing a new play that I'll direct. The new play focused on early childhood with music and movement about life in a farmhouse. www.mariacasellas.net.

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PHILLIDA EVES (IRELAND)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - ROSÁN SENSORY ADVENTURES

Phillida Eves is a creative sensory artist and educator and is passionate about giving children and young people with intellectual disabilities and Autism a voice in the creative process and agency in expressing themselves in the creative arts.

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SVETLANA PATAFTA (CROATIA)

ACTOR, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & DRAMA TEACHER - TEATAR PUNA KUCA

MA in Acting, Academy of Arts, Novi Sad, Serbia. Residence: Zagreb, Croatia. Artistic director of Teatar Puna kuca. Field of interest: theatre for young audiences and youth. She works as an actress, director and drama pedagogue. The creator and facilitator of various workshops for children, families and teachers. Coordinator of the Small Size Masterclass in the Artistic Gathering in Serbia 2023. She performs in Serbian, Croatian, Slovenian, Italian and English.

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EMRAN ALENOZ (JORDAN)

DIRECTOR

Imran Al-Anouz Theater director specializing in children's theatre. Graduate of Yarmouk University, BA in Drama. Member of the Jordanian Artists Syndicate. Theater teacher at the Ministry of Education. Director of the Jordan International Festival for Children's Theater. He directed many plays and won many awards locally and in the Arab world. He participated in many international theater festivals.

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RANA ABU ZMIROU (JORDAN)

ACTOR

Rana Abuzamiro is a theater actress. In 2012, I started working with a theater group. I participated in many plays, but in the last eight years I have focused on presenting theatrical works directed at children.

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THAMSANQA KHUMALO (SOUTH AFRICA)

ACTOR & DIRECTOR - AMACIKO KWAZULU ART PROJECT

Thamsanqa Khumalo is a South African young actor and director for young audiences who has managed to directed few beautiful plays.

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NICLAS MALMCRONA (SWEDEN)

MANAGER - ASSITEJ SWEDEN

Niclas Malmcrona is the Director of ASSITEJ Sweden with more than 30 years of experience as a performing arts producer and in organising meetings, workshops and in all parts of the world. Niclas was responsible for ASSITEJ's World Congress in Malmö and Copenhagen in 2011, has been a member of IPAY's Board of Directors in Philadelphia, USA, and has organised festivals in countries as diverse as Russia and Jordan. From 1999-2008 Niclas was Secretary General of ASSITEJ International.

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OUTI SIPPOLA (FINLAND)

PUPPETEER - AURA OF PUPPETS

A puppeteer, a writer, a puppet theatre director, an international festival enthusiast, a representative of Turku International Puppetry Festival and Aura of Puppets.

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FLORIANE PALUMBO (BELGIUM)

EVENTS & FESTIVALS ORGANIZATION - THÉÂTRE LA MONTAGNE MAGIQUE

Since 2011, I'm the communications manager of La montagne magique. I'm in charge of organizing festivals, events and artist residencies.

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IRENE KAJO (FINLAND)

TEACHER - UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS HELSINKI

I am Lecturer, Master's degree Programme in Theatre Pedagogy, Theatre Academy.

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NOORA KARJALAINEN (FINLAND)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & DOCTORAL CANDIDATE - URSA MINOR

Noora Karjalainen is a Finnish theatre artist and pedagogue, an arts activist, and a doctoral candidate at the University of the Arts Helsinki, who conducts pioneering artistic research in the embodied realms of being deaf. She is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Ursa Minor, an independent theatre that aims to create spaces for sign language encounters in the field of art and culture. Ursa Minor's work spans a broad age group and invites people to see the world through deaf eyes.

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GABIJA STASINSKAITE (LITHUANIA)

PROJECT & PROGRAM COORDINATOR - ARTS PRINTING HOUSE

Project and program manager with more than two years of experience working at contemporary performing arts center Arts Printing House in Vilnius.

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DOMINYKA MINDERYTE (LITHUANIA)

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GERTIEN BERGSTRA (THE NETHERLANDS)

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER - DE STILTE

Gertien joined de Stilte (NL) in 1994 as dancer. She assisted in the foundation of the company as a structurally based developer of performances for children. Since 2009 she is responsible for the repertoire as rehearsal director and artistic coordinator. Together with Femke Somerwil she makes work for Early Years since 2021, such as Wait a Minute and Eyecatchers. Since 2023 she is part of the artistic team of BRIK-festival.

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ALICE MARY COOPER (SCOTLAND)

THEATRE MAKER AND PERFORMER

Actor, writer, clown and theatre maker, Alice Mary Cooper is an English born, Australian raised, Scottish based artist. Alice makes work for all ages, often with a focus on women's stories, and is passionate about using her practice to create a more just and sustainable future, ideally making people smile in the process. Her shows, Waves, Experts Radio Lab and The Bush, have been extensively presented, including to Edinburgh International Children's Festival and Auckland Arts Festival.

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BARBARA MAŁECKA (POLAND)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - ANIMATION THEATRE

Artistic director of KONTEKSTY festival & international project manager at Animation Theatre. Artistic director of the International Festival of Arts for Early Years FESTIWAL NAJMŁODSZYCH at Art Fraction Foundation. Author of scenography for world touring early years theatre productions.

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