

VIRGINIA

rep



After December

BY BO WILSON



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VIRGINIA **rep**

WORLD PREMIERE

After December

By Bo Wilson

SCENIC AND
PROJECTION DESIGN
Tennessee Dixon

COSTUME DESIGN
Sue Griffin

LIGHTING DESIGN
BJ Wilkinson

SOUND DESIGN
Joey Luck

STAGE MANAGEMENT
Justin Janke*

DIRECTION
Rick Hammerly

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Altria

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Christine Keeler	Patricia Austin*
December	Bianca Bryan
Evan Garth	Jeffrey Cole
Marten Root	Andrew Etheredge
Nat Carroll, Evan Garth u/s	Andrew Firda*
Nat Carroll u/s	Joshua Mullins
Maria Staslaw	Susan Sanford*

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Assistant Stage Managers	MariaElisa Costa, Leica Long
Health Safety Manager	Hannah Hoffert
Wardrobe Supervisor	Sassy Rychalski
Projection Technician	Corrine Manderino
Audio Engineer	Will Fisher
Light Board Operator	Griffin Hardy
Photographer	Aaron Suttan



**Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.*

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

SPECIAL THANKS

Ned Balbo, Maggie Bovolack, Kim Jones Clark, Rob Culbertson, Audra Honaker, EM Lewis, Bruce Miller, John Mincks, Jamie Pachino, Jan Powell, Alexander Sapp, Laine Satterfield, Foster Solomon, Stephen Kay and Piper Perabo

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COMPANY BIOS



Patricia Austin (Christine Keeler) makes her return to the Virginia Rep stage. She was last seen as very pregnant Jane Bingley in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Trish relocated to RVA from Berkeley, CA. While in the Bay Area, her stage credits included: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), *Autobiography of a Terrorist* (Golden Thread Productions), *A Tale of Autumn* (Crowded Fire's

Matchbox Reading Series), *On the Wonderverse* (Bay Area Playwrights Foundation), *Taming of the Shrew* (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), and *Mutt* (Impact Theatre), to name a few. Special thanks to Rick, Bo, and Virginia Rep for this fabulous opportunity. And to Tripp for everything else!



Bianca Bryan, she/her, (December) While you may know Bianca from local theatrical stages, she is most recognizable for her voice, saying "Support for VPM..." on 88.9 or "Have Funn Go Nuts!" at the Diamond as the Flying Squirrels PA Announcer. Theater, however, will always have her heart. Highlights: *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett), *Urinetown* (Lockstock), *Wings* (Emily), *Taming of the Shrew* (Petruchio), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Yitzhak), *Assassins* (Sarah Jane Moore), *Caroline or Change* (Rose). She has proudly received the RTCC Best Actress title twice. On TV, she hosts *Real Virginia*. Brooklyn College (M.F.A.), Manhattan School of Music (B.M.).

Love to Chris, Mom, Dad, Trace and Annella. www.biancabryan.com



Jeffrey Cole, he/his, (Evan Garth) has been active in the Richmond theatre community as an actor, text coach, and director since 2006. Acting credits include John Proctor (*The Crucible*), John Faustus (*Wittenburg*), Uncle Peck (*How I Learned to Drive*) (all RTCC nominated roles), Doug (*Gruesome Playground Injuries*), Romeo, Iago, Macduff, and Hamlet.

Directing credits include *The (24 Hour) Bald Soprano*, *Oblivion*, *Our Town*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and most recently *All's Well That Ends Well*. By day, Jeffrey works as an English teacher at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. All his love goes to BG and the boys.



Andrew Etheredge (Marten Root, Evan Garth u/s) has appeared in *Zanna, Don't!*, *Company of Angels*, *The Holiday Stops*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Cabaret*, *Angels In America*, *Corpus Christi*, and *The Boy From Oz* with Richmond Triangle Players, as well as *Damn Yankees* and *Driving Miss Daisy* with the Weinstein Jewish Community Center. Other credits include: *A New Brain*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Into the Woods*, *Big River*, *Hello,*

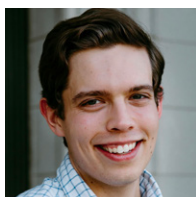
Dolly, *Guys and Dolls*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Boys Next Door*, a national tour of *Beauty and the Beast*, multiple local productions with K Dance and commercials for Circuit City and Virginia Credit Union.

COMPANY BIOS



Andrew Firda, he/him, (Nat Carroll, Evan Garth u/s) is delighted to return to Virginia Rep where he last appeared in *Airline Highway*. Richmond credits: Cadence Theatre, Richmond Triangle Players, Firehouse Theatre, University of Richmond. Off-Broadway: The Pearl Theatre Company. Off-off-Broadway: Metropolitan Playhouse, Gallery Players. Regional appearances with the Arts Center of Coastal

Carolina, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Northern Stage, Smoky Mountain Shakespeare Festival, and The Monomoy Theatre. Television: *Law & Order: SVU*, *One Life to Live*, *As the World Turns*, truTV, The History Channel, and on the web with The Onion News Network. He holds an M.F.A. from Ohio University.



Joshua Mullins (Nat Carroll u/s) is a graduate of Radford University where he obtained a B.A. in Theatre. Notable works include: *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged]*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Quill Theatre); *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Hugs and Kisses* (Virginia Rep); *A Hotel on Marvin Gardens* (CAT); *Photograph 51* (The New Theatre); *Hamlet* (Richmond Catholic

Theatre). He also teaches Theatre at Henrico High School through their Center for the Arts. He'd like to thank his wife, Anika, for her undying love and support.



Susan Sanford, she/her, (Maria Staslaw) is thrilled to return to the November Theatre stage. Previous roles at Virginia Rep include The Wicked Stepmother in *Cinderella*, Sister Mary Lazarus in *Sister Act*, and the Baroness in *The Sound of Music* (RTCC Best Supporting Actress in a Musical award). Susan has appeared on numerous stages around Richmond, in roles such as Big Edie/Little Edie in *Grey Gardens* at Richmond Triangle

Players (RTCC Best Actress in a Musical award) and Toni in *Appropriate* with Cadence/Virginia Rep (RTCC Best Actress in a Play award). Susan is also an accomplished director, and will be directing the Virginia Rep production of *Elephant and Piggie; We are in a Play!* at the new Virginia Rep Center. Other directorial efforts include *Knuffle Bunny*, *Goodnight Moon*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, all for Virginia Rep. By day, Susan teaches theatre and public speaking at The Steward School. All thanks and love to Foster, Willow and Jordan.

Rick Hammerly, he/him, (Director) See biography on Leadership page.

Tennessee Dixon (Scenic & Projection Designer) Premiere productions include: *Ushuaia Blue* by Caridad Svich (Contemporary American Theater Festival, Jessi D Hill dir); *Richard 3.0* (Synetic Theater, Paata Tsikurishvili dir); *End of War* by David L. Robbins (Virginia Rep, Nathaniel Shaw dir); *In My Chair* by Eva DeVirgilis (Cadence/Virginia Rep, Lisa Rothe dir); *A Single Prayer* by K Jenkins and *Ubu 84* (Firehouse Theatre); *Mr. Dicken's Christmas Carol* by Bo Wilson (Quill Theatre, Gary Hopper dir); *Junta High* by Clay McLeod Chapman and *Shadow Play* (TheatreVCU), *City of Paper* by Yin Mei (Jacobs Pillow), *Dong Dong Touching The Moons* by komungo master Jin Hi Kim (Kennedy Center, The Kitchen NYC, Mass Moca), and as a Fulbrighter 2010 - *VU* by Ivan Angeles (Trafó Kortárs Művészetek Háza, Budapest).

COMPANY BIOS

Sue Griffin (Costume Designer) has headed up the Virginia Rep costume department for the last nineteen years. Over this time, the shop has produced costumes for more than 300 shows, from traveling fairy tales to major musicals. With the help of the full time shop, hundreds of costumes, wigs, shoes and hats are sent out on a stage or packed up on tour. Some of the most memorable shows include *1776*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Color Purple*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*.

BJ Wilkinson, he/him, (Lighting Designer) received his B.A. from the University of Northern Colorado, & his M.F.A. from the University of Cincinnati-CCM. He serves as Head of Lighting for VCU, where he recently designed *The Importance of being Earnest*, and *Men on Boats*. He has designed over 40 productions with Virginia Rep and created the lighting design for the Eobalaenoptera whale display at the Caroline County Visitor's Center. Special thanks to Samm, Molly, and Jameson.

Joey Luck (Sound Designer) is excited to be a part of this world premiere of *After December*! Some of his more recent theatre credits include: *James and the Giant Peach* (VCUArts Theatre) and *Everybody* (Cadence/Virginia Rep). Joey has received RTCC awards in Sound Design for the following productions: *A Bright New Boise* (2013, Firehouse Theatre), *Cabaret* (2014, Richmond Triangle Players), *Psycho Beach Party* (2015, Richmond Triangle Players), *The Toxic Avenger* (2017, 5th Wall Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (2019, TheatreLAB), and most recently for *Small Mouth Sounds* (2022, Cadence/Virginia Rep). Joey would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support!

Justin Janke, he/him, (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with Virginia Rep on the world premiere of *After December*. He has spent the last seven years working with the company, including the recent post-pandemic productions of *Miss Bennet*, *Mamma Mia!*, *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, and *Pipeline*. He has also recently Stage Managed *Ghost The Musical* at Riverside Center for the Arts and the 2022 RTCC Artsies. Justin is a 2018 graduate of VCU with a B.F.A. in Theatre; Stage Management and Technical Production. He has 303 months until he can retire from his day job and really focus on his theatre career.

MariaElisa Costa (Assistant Stage Manager) is so excited to be involved in her first Virginia Rep show! Originally from New York City, MariaElisa is excited to become a part of the Richmond Theater Community. With a Bachelor in Theater Arts from Brooklyn College and a certificate in musical theater performance from The Institute for American Musical Theatre, MariaElisa has collected quite a few credits in her young career. In NYC she stage managed shows at Theater Row, Theatre 315, The Heights Players, The Gallery Players, and Brooklyn College to name a few. She is excited to see what Richmond and Virginia Rep hold for her future.

Leica Long (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be working on her first Virginia Rep show. She is a recent graduate of VCUarts, where she got a B.F.A. in Theatre Stage Management. Leica's PSM credits include *Annabelle* (Firehouse), *Men on Boats* (VCU), and *You Have The Right to Remain Dead* (SALT). She also worked as an ASM on *How I Learned to Drive* (The Conciliation Lab), *Spring Awakening* (VCU), and *You Got Older* (SALT).

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Bo Wilson

Bo Wilson's work is well known to Virginia Rep audiences and, increasingly, to audiences all over the world. The *Charitable Sisterhood* plays (both smash hits at Hanover Tavern) have been done across the country as well as Australia, Canada, and Wales, and last spring's acclaimed *Bonnie and Claire* was just published by Dramatic Publishing, with high hopes for its future. Earlier world premieres of his work by Virginia Rep include *Ella and Her Fella Frank*, *Mona's Arrangements*, and *War Story*, as well as several touring shows. He's also appeared on Virginia Rep stages as an actor, most recently in *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*.



Bo was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and bounced around a bit before settling in Richmond, Virginia just in time to start fourth grade. Richmond has been his home ever since, with time away at Virginia Tech and at the National Theatre Institute. He has written film scripts for the FBI, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Defense Intelligence Agency (sshhhh!) He's also a professional voice talent with several hundred radio and TV ads to his credit, for products ranging from Sylvan Learning Centers to Mohatma Rice to the "Voice of Vault-Tec" in the Fallout video game series.

He has written thirty or so other titles, and in addition to his current partnership with Dramatic Publishing, he's been published by Samuel French and Algonquin Press. His better half is the lovely and talented Jan Guarino.



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WATCHING SCIENCE BLOOM

News from Our Promotional Partner: Science Museum of Virginia

When you think of traveling along Broad Street near Scott's Addition, you don't picture a large public park because there hasn't been one ... until now. The Science Museum of Virginia is reshaping the corridor by creating The Green, a 6-acre public greenspace.

Five years ago, Science Museum leadership looked outside the building to enrich campus features. The Green has three parts: phase 1, the space in front of the parking deck and Children's Museum of Richmond; phase 2, the space in front of the Science Museum; and phase 3, the eastern corner near DMV Drive.

Phase 1 included removing 2+ acres of asphalt parking lot and replacing it with native vegetation, walking paths and benches. When completed later this year, it will also include a large, STEM-inspired art feature. In total, when phase 3 is complete in several years, thousands of native trees and plants will play a key role in achieving The Green's design goals and desired environmental and health benefits.

The Green will serve as a demonstration site for sequestering carbon, managing stormwater and using natural solutions to address climate change. At the same time, The Green offers the community a park-like space for passive recreation such as walking, relaxing and gathering, which has scientifically proven physical and mental health benefits.

The Science Museum looks forward to seeing guests, neighbors and community members enjoying The Green when the ecosystem is robust and native plants are in bloom, and watching that connection and engagement deepen as work continues.



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smv.org/thegreen

LEADERSHIP



PHIL WHITEWAY

Managing Director

Phil is a key leader in Virginia's nonprofit arts management community. He co-founded Theatre IV in 1975 as Virginia's first

professional theatre for young audiences. In 2001, he assumed the role of Managing Director of Barksdale Theatre. In 2012, he provided staff leadership as Theatre IV and Barksdale merged to form Virginia Rep, Central Virginia's flagship professional theatre. Under his management, Phil's companies have received the first *Excellence in Instruction Award* from the Virginia Board of Education, the *Dominion Shining Star Award* from Virginians for the Arts, and the *50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Award* from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Phil was a founding member of the boards of the Richmond Arts Consortium and the Broad Street

Association. Under his staff leadership, Theatre IV purchased and renovated our historic November Theatre, receiving the *Community Builders Award* from the Central Richmond Association for its contribution to downtown revitalization. Phil is a graduate and past board member of Leadership Metro Richmond. He has served on the Governance Board of Partners in the Arts and as treasurer of Virginians for the Arts.

Phil has received the *Voice of the University Award* from his alma mater (University of Richmond), the Theresa Pollak "Lifetime Achievement Award" from *Richmond Magazine*, and the *Governor's Award for the Arts* from Tim Kaine. In 2000, Phil was included by *Style Weekly* among the "100 Most Influential Richmonders of the 20th Century."

Phil consults on arts management both locally and nationally. He is forever grateful for the love and support of his wife, Donna, and their four adult children—PJ, Jennings, Alex, and Gordon.



DESIRÉE ROOTS

Artistic Director of Community

Desirée has showcased her triple threat talent for over 35 years as an active member of the Gospel,

Jazz, and Theatre scenes regionally, nationally, internationally, and in Richmond, VA where she grew up. She started singing in church when she was four, and started her professional theatrical career at age 13. Growing up in a musical family, it was only natural that she follow in her performing parents' footsteps.

Desirée has performed throughout the East Coast with orchestras, jazz ensembles, and as leader of her own ensembles. She's been the opening act for internationally renowned artists including Boney James, Brian McKnight, the late Phyllis Hyman, and B. B. King. She is a Grammy nominated recording artist and has produced shows she wrote including *Ella at 100* in honor of the First Lady of Jazz, Ms. Ella Fitzgerald's 100th birthday. She received the Theresa Pollak award for "Vocal Excellence" in 2014.

Along with performing, Desirée has had a long standing career in the corporate and nonprofit sectors. Upon receiving her B.A. from Virginia Union University, she initially embarked on a teaching path. This quickly evolved into other opportunities such as a Programming Manager for Richmond Jazz Society, Inc., Booking Manager for Downtown Presents (now Venture Richmond), and client liaison for Drake Beam & Morin, a Fortune 500 corporation. She has also been an educator and music facilitator privately and within the Henrico and Richmond Public school systems for over 20 years.

Desirée began her association with Virginia Rep as a high school intern when the company was Theatre IV with the unique mission "to seek national-caliber excellence equally in four areas: the arts, education, children's health, and community leadership."

These four pillars of service are what drew her to become *Artistic Director of Community* — "working with the theatre company I love to serve the community I love."

**RICK HAMMERLY***Artistic Director
of Programming*

Rick has worked as an award-winning, DC-based actor, director, filmmaker, and arts manager for

over three decades.

He received a 2018 Helen Hayes Award for his direction of *Lela & Co.* and a 2020 Helen Hayes Award nomination for his direction of *Agnes of God*, both for Factory 449. Other directing credits include *Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue's The Brontes* (New York Musical Theatre Festival), *Reykjavik* (Rorschach Theatre), *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (WSC Avant Bard), *Driving Miss Daisy* featuring Karen Grassle (Riverside Center for the Performing Arts), *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* (Adventure Theatre MTC), *Dead Man Walking* (American University) and *Closet Land* (Factory 449). In 2015/16, he was selected to participate in The Shakespeare Theatre Company's inaugural Directors' Studio program.

As an actor, he has performed Off-Broadway and regionally, receiving a Helen Hayes Award for his turn as Hedwig in Signature Theatre's production

of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, as well as nominations for his work in *Angels in America* (Signature Theatre), *Me and Jezebel* (MetroStage) and *Oliver!* (Adventure Theatre MTC). For ten years, he played Mr. Fezziwig in Ford's Theatre's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* and was most recently seen as Miss Tracy Mills in Round House Theatre's *The Legend of Georgia McBride*.

His debut film, *signage*, which he wrote, directed, and produced, has screened in over 60 film festivals worldwide, receiving 6 film festival awards and was subsequently licensed by MTV's LOGO Channel.

He is a founder and the current Producing Artistic Director of Factory 449, the recipient of multiple Helen Hayes Awards, including the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company, and the Executive Director of the Washington Area Performing Arts Video Archive (WAPAVA).

Rick is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and Actors' Equity Association (AEA). He received a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Virginia, an M.A. in Film & Video Production from American University, and has completed the coursework for an M.A. in Arts Management, also from AU.

**TODD D. NORRIS***Artistic Director
of Education*

Todd is an American theatre director, educator, writer, and actor. He recently served as president of

the International Museum Theatre Alliance and continues to act as an advisor.

Todd comes to Virginia Rep from the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, IN — the world's largest children's museum — where he worked since 2013, serving as Director of Interpretation and then Associate Vice President of Interpretation and Family Programs. In these roles, he was responsible for fiscal management, artistic direction for its professional children's theatre seasons, coordinating holistic approaches to gallery performances, and overseeing quality for hundreds of daily programs.

From 2003-2013, Todd worked at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, eventually becoming Senior Manager of Performance Interpretation. While at Colonial Williamsburg, he also acted in several episodes of their Emmy-Award winning

Electronic Field Trips and directed and performed in many evening programs and special events.

Favorite previous directing assignments include *Humble Boy*, *Tales of Olympus*, *Eleemosynary*, and *The Santa Clues*.

He has taught and directed at several schools including The College of William and Mary, Christopher Newport University, Alice Lloyd College, and Wright State University.

He was born in Columbus, OH, and received his M.F.A. in Acting from University of Louisville and his B.A. in Theatre Performance, with a minor in music, from the University of Findlay. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Todd will focus on programs for children, families, and schools including touring programs and arts in education. He and Desirée Roots will co-lead Virginia Rep's award-winning Community Health + Wellness program, which creates, implements and assesses model projects that demonstrate how theatre can be used as an effective tool in addressing critical educational and societal challenges.

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Virginia Repertory Theatre's History of Action in Support of Racial Equity

Since its founding as Barksdale Theatre (1953), Virginia Rep has maintained a steadfast commitment to racial equity. We proudly acknowledge the roles of our audience, artists and Boards in this hard-won legacy of progress toward inclusion, diversity, equity and access.

- 1954** In partnership with VUU, and in open defiance of Virginia's Jim Crow Laws, Barksdale welcomes Virginia's first fully integrated audience since Reconstruction.
- 1968** Barksdale casts Carl Lester as Persil-le-Noir in *Irma La Douce*, marking RVA's first hiring of a Black actor in a major supporting role, not as a servant, in a major theatre.
- 1973** To critical acclaim and sold-out houses, Barksdale stages Lorraine Hansberry's *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* as RVA's first major production focusing on Black experience.
- 1975** Theatre IV's founding mission commits to excellence in "four equal areas: the arts, education, children's health and community leadership," putting EDA front and center.
- 1978** Barksdale welcomes a guest production of *The River Niger*, a realistic family drama firmly rooted in contemporary Black experience — another first.
- 1980** Theatre IV places *A Raisin in the Sun*, staged by Black director Amini Jahari, in its inaugural season — again, a first. In subsequent seasons, we produce 42 additional mainstage shows focusing on Black or Latin experience.
- 1981** Theatre IV produces its first touring instructional play based on Black History, *Bound for Freedom*, casting Tony Cosby, Kelvin Davis and Eloise Libron in its resident touring company. In subsequent years, we create 12 additional Black History instructional titles, touring them to schools statewide and nationally.
- 1986** Theatre IV purchases and renovates the historic Empire Theatre, formerly the Booker T, as our permanent home.
- 1997** Martha Gilbert elected President of the Theatre IV Board of Directors, the first Black Board President of a major nonprofit arts organization in Virginia.
- 2002** Theatre IV presents *Buffalo Soldier* as the first professional theatre production to be staged in the Pentagon, as a morale booster following 9/11.
- 2009** Barksdale and Theatre IV jointly stage Virginia's first Hispanic Theatre Festival.
- 2020** Virginia Rep Board creates IDEA Committee: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access.
- 2021** Katrinah Carol Lewis named Interim Co-Artistic Director, followed by the permanent appointment of Desirée Roots as Artistic Director of Community.

The rest of Virginia Rep's Social Justice efforts, including our Anti-Racism Statement, can be found on our website at va-rep.org/anti-racism.html.

OUR MISSION

Our Mission: To entertain, challenge and uplift our communities through the power of live theatre. To that end, we seek national caliber excellence in the arts, education, and community health and leadership.

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We thank the many individuals and institutional funders who have made charitable contributions in the past year. The following lists reflect contributions to our annual operating fund between March 1, 2022 and February 15, 2023. If you would like to join these supporters by donating to our nonprofit theatre, please visit www.virginiarep.org to **DONATE NOW** or mail your contribution check to Virginia Repertory Theatre, 114 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220. Corrections to this list or questions about donating should be directed to our Development Office at (804) 783-1688 x1263.

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