

d

artslandia®  
AT THE PERFORMANCE

BY LISA KRON

# IN THE WAKE



PROFILE  
THEATRE

DIRECTED BY  
JOSH HECHT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOSH HECHT  
MANAGING DIRECTOR MATTHEW JONES

# PLAYWRIGHT PROFILE LISA KRON

Welcome to the fourth production of our 2018–2019 season!



For our 21<sup>st</sup> season, we're doing something special: an 18-month "double-season" featuring the works of Anna Deavere Smith and Lisa Kron. Patrons have been on a year-long journey, seeing the world through the eyes of our Featured Writer. Lisa Kron may now feel like an old friend to some of you. For those eager to learn more about this smart and funny writer, welcome to her "Playwright Profile."

Lisa grew up in Lansing, Michigan and like many artists, moved to New York after college. As a teenager and young woman in Michigan and in New York, she pursued acting

in straight plays, increasingly dissatisfied with the roles for women, and especially LGBTQ women. Seeing the work of the pioneering group Split Britches had a profound impact. Lisa writes, "It was so beautiful and complete and so utterly unlike anything I had ever seen before. It was strange yet totally familiar. Funny and heartbreaking and so sexy. It was nonlinear — that blew my Midwestern MIND. And — they made it themselves. To me this was a revelation."

Through Split Brithes, Lisa found her way to the WOW Cafe, a hot-bed for experimental lesbian-centered work in New York's East Village, the city's bohemian heart. At WOW's tiny storefront theatre she found a like-minded tribe of theatre-makers devising their own work, writing their own plays, sometimes in a few months, sometimes in a few days, with sets and costumes made from found materials. It was here that she started doing her own solo work. And it was here that she, her girlfriend Peg Healy, and friends Maureen Angelos, Babs Davy, and Dominique Dibbell, formed The Five Lesbian Brothers.

Throughout the '90s, both Lisa's solo work and the plays created with the Brothers gained increasing prominence, and were produced throughout New York at PS 122, The Kitchen, Dixon Place, HERE Arts Center and eventually at large off-Broadway venues like New York Theatre Workshop, and in 1997, The Public Theater, where *2.5 Minute Ride* opened to rave reviews, winning OBIE, Drama-logic and GLAAD Awards.

The Public Theater became an artistic home for Lisa, developing and producing her plays *Well*, which transferred to Broadway, earning Tony nominations for Lisa and co-star Jayne Houdyshell; *In The Wake*, Lisa's most traditionally well-made play; and *Fun Home*, her musical written with Tony-winning composer Jeanine Tessori, which also transferred to Broadway, winning 5 of its 12 Tony nominations, including Best Musical of 2015.

Throughout it all, what makes Lisa's writing indelibly Lisa's is her interest in the mix of theatrical forms — from the straight play to solo story-telling to ensemble-generated work, sometimes co-existing in the same piece — her commitment to politically-engaged work, and her conviction that laughter and tears, joy and sorrow, can inhabit the same moment.

## Presenting **LISA KRON** In Conversation



**Sunday, December 9th, 11:00 am**  
**Morrison Stage, Artists Rep**

Featured playwright Lisa Kron is traveling to Portland for a week-long residency!

Join us for a vibrant conversation facilitated by Artistic Director, Josh Hecht.

You'll get to know this playwright, comedian and solo performer as she shares insight into her creative career and performs some of her writing.

Catered reception and book signing to follow!

### TICKETS NOW ON SALE

\$50 / \$35 / \$30 / \$20  
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## FROM THE DIRECTOR JOSH HECHT



I'm often told, as a producer of contemporary plays that explore the urgent questions of our time, that I'm "preaching to the choir." We live in a city that prides itself as a bastion of progressive politics. And it is generally assumed that those who seek out contemporary plays sit comfortably on the left, or at least in the center, of our body politic. It's true the Arts have always drawn a certain kind of (dare I say it, perhaps I'll rehabilitate the word) liberal, among an audience that I hope is increasingly wide-ranging in point of view, experience, and history.

So when people tell me I'm preaching to the choir, I tend to think, *perhaps*. And I often find myself responding, "the choir needs more convincing than we like to think."

Part of what I love about *In The Wake* is the mirror it holds up to progressive arm-chair activists (I say this as someone who himself loves a good arm-chair and a good opinion!), revealing our own blindspots, our complacency and complicity. As a mentor of mine memorably once said to me: "everyone wants change, but nobody wants to change." Guilty as charged. A fearless and searching moral inventory is the step most of us stumble on, after all. That the play suggests this inventory with such wit, humor and winsome charm is what makes Lisa Kron such an extraordinary writer.

Of course, *In The Wake* isn't just about a political moment in our recent history, nor about the quirks of our national political psyche. It's also a deeply personal play about the families we choose and the compromises we make to be in long-term relationship to one another (as lovers and also as friends),

about a city I love that has always both drawn creatives to it and challenged them to survive, and about the potential selves we shed as we become more fully ourselves. There is a grieving we must all engage as we make our life choices. No matter how right and good those choices are, we must grieve the choice not made, the other lives not lived, the other selves not actualized. Another mentor once said the dramaturgy of all plays moves from the opening when anything is possible, to a time when one possibility becomes probable, to a time when the probable becomes inevitable. Our lives follow a similar trajectory.

***In The Wake* asks us to contemplate what it means to make our choices, to truly choose a path, as opposed to wanting to "have it all" (that most American of phrases), and the risks inherent in that choosing.**

Perhaps we will leave here committing to our choices more fiercely, more courageously, knowing that by doing so we will surely have to change, will surely be changed.

### ABOUT PROFILE THEATRE

Founded in 1997 by Jane Unger, Profile Theatre centers a season around a single writer. Jane's tenure established the theatre as a leading voice in Portland's cultural scene, exploring the work of some of the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries most important masters.

Profile's second Artistic Director, Adriana Baer, was interested in exploring the writers we would come to think of as our "21<sup>st</sup> Century Masters," contemporary writers investigating the most pressing concerns of our time. Josh Hecht became Artistic Director in 2017. His commitment to new work and robust community engagement has led to two new commissions in 2018-19 and our Community Profile Program that uses art-making as a means of community-building.

In 2010, Profile Theatre was awarded an inaugural "New National Theatre Company" Award from the American Theatre Wing designed to bring national attention to "the most inspiring and innovative theatre companies on our national landscape." More recently, Profile has twice been recognized by Age and Gender Equity in the Arts for its leadership in equity, diversity and inclusion.



Presents

# IN THE WAKE

By Lisa Kron

Directed By Josh Hecht<sup>^</sup>

## CAST

Beth Thompson .....	Ellen
Chris Murray* .....	Danny
Alissa Jessup .....	Laurie
Danielle Weathers* .....	Kayla
Jane Bement Geesman .....	Judy
Jamie M. Rea* .....	Amy
Tamera Lyn .....	Tessa

## DESIGNERS & PRODUCTION

Dan Meeker* .....	Scenic Designer
Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew* .....	Lights & Projection Designer
Matt Wiens .....	Sound Designer
Elyse Grimaldi .....	Costume Designer
Elizabeth Barrett .....	Props Master
Karen M. Hill* .....	Stage Manager
Jamie M. Rea .....	Line Producer
Breydon Little .....	Production Assistant
Karl Hanover .....	Dialect Coach

PRODUCERS CIRCLE FOR THIS PRODUCTION **Bob & Janet Conklin**

*IN THE WAKE* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services, Inc., New York.

*IN THE WAKE* was commissioned by Center Theatre Group.

The world premiere was co-produced by Center Theater Group at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Los Angeles, CA in March 2010 and Berkeley Repertory Theatre at the Roda Theatre in Berkley, CA in May 2010.

The New York premiere of *IN THE WAKE* was produced by the Public Theater in October 2010, Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Andrew D. Harningson, Executive Director.

*IN THE WAKE* was developed, in part, with the assistance of the Sundance Institute Theater Program.

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Profile Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the professional union of actors and stage managers.

+Represented by United Scenic Artists - Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.



# CAST & CREATIVE TEAM



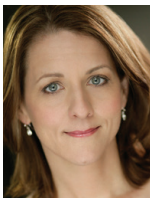
**BETH THOMPSON**  
**Ellen**

Proud to call Portland home, Beth has collaborated with many local companies as an actor, deviser, teacher and producer. Favorite roles include Woman in *Tender Napalm* with Dancing Brain Productions, Orlando in *Orlando* at Profile Theatre, Miss Julie in *Miss Julie* and Catherine in *Suddenly Last Summer* at Shaking the Tree, and Bear in *The Snowstorm* with Many Hats Collaboration/CoHo Theatre. Beth is grateful to return to Profile after the very fulfilling work she did here during the Sarah Ruhl season.



**CHRIS MURRAY\***  
**Danny**

Chris is excited to be returning to Profile Theatre, where he performed in *The Antigone Project*, Sam Sheppard - Festival of One Acts, *A Few Stout Individuals*, *The Sisters Rosensweig* and *Six Degrees of Separation*. He has performed on stage all over town and will be appearing this season in *Sense and Sensibility* and *Crossing Mnisose* at The Armory. Thank you for supporting live theatre!



**DANIELLE WEATHERS\***  
**Kayla**

Danielle is honored to join this cast and creative team. Some recent credits include: *Luna Gale* (CoHo), *Stuck* (Chapel Theatre Collective), *Still Looking For Tiger Lily* (Artists' Rep/ Portland Shakespeare Project - Table Room Stage Series), *Trails and Adrift in Macao* (Broadway Rose), and *Davita's Harp* (JTC). She will be in Chapel Theatre Collective's upcoming joint world premiere of *Friends With Guns*, by Stephanie Alison Walker, in January. Danielle is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, founder of The Reading Parlor, and Artistic Associate Director of Chapel Theatre Collective. Much love and gratitude to SuperFleece and the tribe.



**ALISSA JESSUP**  
**Laurie**

Alissa recently returned to the Pacific Northwest and is thrilled to make her Portland theater debut at Profile with this cast and crew! A curious raconteur

with over 20 years' experience creating and working in theater, film, and television. As an actor, she has performed and developed new plays with Sundance Theatre Lab, ACT Theatre, 13P, Soho Rep, P.S. 122, and Playwrights Horizons. Selected TV credits include the upcoming *Shrill* starring Aidy Bryant (Hulu), *True Blood* (HBO), *The Mindy Project* (FOX), and *Grimm* (NBC). She has written and performed comedy at The Upright Citizens Brigade NYC and The Groundlings Theatre in Los Angeles. Alissa is the Artistic Director of The Ape Theater, a non-profit comedy based theater and training ground in Portland, OR. [www.theapetheater.org](http://www.theapetheater.org). Thank you Lisa, Josh and Danielle. Love to Mom, Dad, Chris, Coco and Pixie.



**JANE BEMENT GEESMAN**  
**Judy**

Jane is a teacher, director, and Drammy-winning actor, with almost 40 years' experience in the performing arts. This is her first appearance with Profile Theatre, and she couldn't be more delighted to work with this fine group of artists on this important, timely play. Jane has performed in numerous theatres in Portland and the Bay Area over many years and has had featured roles in television commercials and series, including *Leverage* and *Grimm*. She is a guest faculty member at the Haven Institute in British Columbia, where she co-leads, with Sarah Lucht, personal-development workshops using principles of actor training to deepen self-knowledge and spark creative energy.



**JAMIE M. REA\***  
**Amy**

Delighted to be making her second appearance in this Lisa Kron season with Profile Theatre Project, Jamie was last seen as Dawn in *The Secretaries*. Favorite other local credits include: Macbeth, in Shaking the Tree Theatre's *Macbeth*, Kristine in STT's *A Doll's House* (Drammy: Best Supporting Actress), Anna in CoHo/Many Hats, *The Snowstorm* (Drammy Finalist: Best Actress), and later this year she can be seen as Olympe in Artists Rep's *The Revolutionists*. She is co-founding Artistic Director of the Beirut Wedding World Theatre Project where she will be directing *Jesus Hopped the A' Train* as the close of CoHo's 23<sup>rd</sup> season.



**TAMERA LYN**  
**Tessa**

Southwest Atlanta native, Tamera Lyn, is setting her sights on the boundless world of creative art as a young black woman. Graduate from Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance. She works as an actor, director, and writer throughout the city, both in theatre and film. Tamera is also producing her own visual work with Sunflower Creations; a production vessel that she created while studying as an undergrad. She has produced her work independently, and continues to collaborate with artists in Portland. Tamera Lyn leads with a Humble Beginning. Humble Life. Humble Spirit. Watch her bloom at [tamerallyn.com](http://tamerallyn.com)

**DANIEL MEEKER\***  
**Scenic Designer**

Previously for Profile: Scenery for *26 Miles* and during the Jane Unger years, lighting for *The Young Man From Atlanta*, and scenery and lighting for *Great Falls*, *Chesapeake*, *Fortinbras*, and *At Home At The Zoo*. Other Local design credits include shows for Portland Playhouse, Portland Opera, Portland Center Stage, Oregon Children's Theater, and Artists Repertory Theater. Outside of theater, Daniel is the lighting director for the Pickathon festival and the principal designer of The American Art Fair and The Winter Antiques Show. Daniel is a graduate of Ithaca College and The Yale School of Drama, and a member of United Scenic Artists.

**ELYSE GRIMALDI**  
**Costume Designer**

Elyse has a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from Portland State University and has worked as a costume designer in the Portland area for over four years. Her most recent work includes *The Wolf* with Shaking the Tree Theatre, Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* with Profile Theatre, and Pauline Viardot's *La Cendrillon* with the Portland State Opera. In addition to her work as a designer, Elyse enjoys participating in local historical and pop culture costuming groups such as the Time Travelers Costume Guild and the Edwardian Society of Oregon.

**JEANETTE OI-SUK YEW\***  
**Lighting & Projection Designer**

Jeanette designs for a wide spectrum of performances which NY Times described as "clever" and "inventive". Recent: *KPOP!*

## CREATIVE TEAM (CONTINUED)

(Henry Hewes Award, Lortel and Drama Desk nominations), Gloria: *A Life* with Diane Paulus, Eve Ensler's *Fruit Trilogy*, *Relevance*, *Top Girls*, and *Informed Consent* with Liesl Tommy, Aya Ogawa's *Ludic Proxy* (Bel Geddes Design), Oneohtrix Point Never's *MYRIAD*, The Civilians' *Paris Commune* and *In the Footprint*, Matthew Paul Olmos' *So Go the Ghosts of Mexico Part One* (NYIT Best Lighting Design nomination), Elizabeth Swados and Cecilia Rubino's *From the Fire* (2011 MTM: UK Musical Theatre Awards for Best New Production), Erik Ehn's *Soulographie: Our Genocides*, and NPR's *WATER +/-* with Kenny Leon. [www.jeanetteyew.com](http://www.jeanetteyew.com)

### MATT WIENS Sound Designer

Matt is pleased to be collaborating with Profile Theater again; previous productions include last season's *Water By The Spoonful* and *The Happiest Song Plays Last*. Big love to my family for their support and encouragement.

### ELIZABETH BARRETT Props Master

Elizabeth is extremely proud to be joining the crew of *In the Wake* as Properties Designer. With a degree in Fine Art from Benedictine College, Elizabeth specialized in large-scale painting. Elizabeth moved from Denver, CO last year where she taught airbrush and painted murals for the city's parks department. Having most recently worked set and props for CoHo Production's *Philip's Glass Menagerie* and *The Taming*, Elizabeth is looking forward to gaining many more valuable experiences in Portland theater.

### KAREN M. HILL\* Stage Manager

Karen is overjoyed to be doing another show with Profile, especially with such a fabulous team. Karen also works as a Production Manager and Stage Manager with Portland Shakespeare Project, Artists Repertory Theater, Portland Opera, and The Oregon Children's Theater. She is grateful everyday that she gets to create beautiful art, and she thanks her husband, Mike, for supporting this crazy lifestyle.

### BREYDON LITTLE Production Assistant

Breydon is thrilled to return to the stage management team for his 5<sup>th</sup> show at Profile (*Twilight: Los Angeles 1992*, *Water by the Spoonful*, *Happiest Song Plays Last*, *Fires in the Mirror*). Some of his other credits in town

include *A Christmas Carol*, *Pen/Man/Ship* (Portland Playhouse); *The Pride* (Defunkt Theatre); *Tender Napalm* (Dancingbrain Productions); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Street Scenes); *Frost/Nixon* (Bay Street Theatre). He is the current production manager at Clackamas High School and Defunkt Theatre. You can catch him next on *A Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: A Rock Experience* at Oregon Children's Theatre.

### KARL HANOVER Dialect Coach

Karl has been involved in theater in various capacities for the last twenty three years. Previous dialect work includes *Orlando*, *The Call*, *Blue Door*, *Antigone Project*, *Elliot* and *26 Miles* with Profile. *A Christmas Carol* and *The Language Archive* with Portland Playhouse. *Hen Night Epiphany*, *Belfast Girls*, *Lifeboat*, *Quietly*, and *Hurl* with Corrib Theatre; and most recently *A Christmas Memory* at Portland Center Stage. He received his M.F.A. in Acting from the National Theater Conservatory in Denver.

### JOSH HECHT Director

Josh is the Artistic Director of Profile Theatre where he last directed the Concert Staging of Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* as well as the rotating repertory productions of Quiara Alegria Hudes' *Water by the Spoonful* and *The Happiest Song Plays Last*. He is a Drama Desk Award-winning director whose productions have been seen in New York at MCC Theater, The Cherry Lane, The Duke on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New World Stages, Culture Project, regionally at The Guthrie Theater, the Berkshire Theatre Group, the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Signature Theatre (DC) and internationally at the Dublin Arts Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and elsewhere. His collaboration with Ping Chong and Company was commissioned by and premiered at The Kennedy Center before touring the northeast. His writing has received the support of the Jerome Foundation. He is formerly the Director of Playwright Development at MCC Theater and the Director of New Play Development at WET. He's served on the faculty of the New School for Drama MFA Directing program, the Fordham University MFA Playwriting program, Purchase College SUNY's BFA Dramatic Writing program and has been a guest artist at The Juilliard School, NYU's Dramatic Writing MFA, Carnegie Mellon's MFA Playwriting, University of Minnesota's BFA Acting program and others.

### LISA KRON Writer

Lisa wrote the book and lyrics for *Fun Home* which won five 2015 Tony awards including Best Book, Score and Musical, and was finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Her other plays include *In The Wake*, *Well*, *2.5 Minute Ride* (Obie). As an actor she received a Tony nomination for her performance in *Well* and a Lortel Award for her turn as Mrs. Mi-Tzu and Mrs. Yang in the Foundry's acclaimed production of *Good Person of Szechuan*. She is the recipient of Guggenheim, Sundance and MacDowell fellowships, a Doris Duke Performing Artists Award, Cal Arts/Alpert and Helen Merrill Awards, the Kleban Prize, and grants from Creative Capital and NYFA. She is a founding member of the OBIE- and Bessie-Award-winning collaborative theater company The Five Lesbian Brothers and serves on the boards of the MacDowell Colony and the Sundance Institute, and on the Council of the Dramatists Guild of America.

## FOR THIS PRODUCTION

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**Mission:** To produce a season of first-class productions and community engagement activities centered around a single writer whose vision broadens our perspective on our world and deepens our collective compassion.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVE

In 2016, Profile Theatre launched its Diversity and Inclusion initiative, committing to three consecutive seasons producing the work of women and writers of color. The Initiative was born out of a desire to correct a persistent imbalance in the diversity and complexity of lives we see reflected on our stages. It is our belief that by actively working to correct this imbalance in our own programming, we more accurately reflect the world around us, produce work of increasing relevance to our city and community, and help dream into being the dynamic and inclusive world we want. We also believe that by continuing to program the most accomplished mid-career writers of our time, all members of our audience, whatever their background, will recognize themselves in these stories.

### STAFF

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Matthew Jones, *Managing Director*  
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*Director of Patron and Donor Relations*  
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Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)



PROFILE  
THEATRE  
PRESENTS  
**(UN)CONDITIONAL**  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY **SARA ZATZ**  
in collaboration with the performers  
[ FEBRUARY 8 - 17, 2019 ]

## NEXT: An exciting addition to our season!

Commissioned by Profile Theatre from National Medal of Arts Awardee Ping Chong + Company, **(UN)CONDITIONAL** uses real stories told by the Portland residents who live them to examine the experience of **living with chronic illness** or caring for someone who does.

This **In Dialogue** production uses stories from our own community to amplify themes found in the work of Lisa Kron and Anna Deavere Smith.

Our **world-premier commission** is made possible in large part by an \$85,000 Creative Heights grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, awarded to support innovation and creative risk-taking and the merger of world-renown artists and local community stories.

### TICKETS NOW ON SALE

\$25 REGULAR / \$20 SUBSCRIBER / \$15 STUDENT/UNDER 30

BOX OFFICE: 503.242.0080 (Tu-F, 12-4 pm) ONLINE: [PROFILETHEATRE.ORG](http://PROFILETHEATRE.ORG)



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Eileen O'Neill Odum (In honor of  
Karl Hanover)  
Corrine Oishi & Lindley Morton  
Wendy Beth Oliver  
Veronica Paracchini  
Laura Potter  
Rick Rees  
Norma Reich  
Charles & Judith Rooks  
Rick & Halle Sadle  
Mary Simeone  
Jesse Smith & Maryann Yelnosky  
Larry Smith  
Olivia A. Solomon  
Melissa Stewart & Don Merkt  
Margot Swanson  
Peter Thacker & Lynn Taylor  
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Phyllis Yes  
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Ginnie Cooper  
John & Maryellen Coutu

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Nancy Drake  
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Sharon Gavin  
Leslie Glasser  
Roxanne Goebel  
Elinor Gollay  
Anonymous  
Sheila Greenlaw-Fink  
Roger Griffith  
Beth Hutchins  
Spencer Keller  
Carol Kimball  
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Jeanette Leahy  
Kirsten Lee  
Cheryl Leonard  
Mair Lewis  
Douglas Lucas  
Dorothy Lyman  
Erin Mallon  
Rosanne Marmor  
Nancy Matthews  
Michael Olich  
Carlton Olson  
Phyllis Oster  
Shari Powell  
Curtis Schade &  
Jacquie Siewert-Schade  
Karen Schneider  
John Shethar  
Matt Shroyer  
Andrew Simon  
Aarisa Smith  
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