

THE  DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENTS

THE ODYSSEY



NOVEMBER 8-17, 2019 BABCOCK THEATRE



Join us for another exciting season in the theatre!

*The U of U Department of Theatre opened the season at the Marriott Center for Dance with Frank Wildhorn's **Dracula the Musical**, a thrilling drama of suspense and unrequited love that brings the undead to life. In September, Wendy Franz from Colorado Shakespeare Festival joined us to direct Shakespeare's **Macbeth**. Now, we present Mary Zimmerman's adaptation of Homer's **The Odyssey**, the classic tale of adventure, trials, and steadfast love.*

*In January we present Qui Nguyen's multi-dimensional tale of friendship, loss, and acceptance, **She Kills Monsters**, for a limited run January 16-19 in Kingsbury Hall. The following month we return to the Babcock Theatre for **Floyd Collins**, a haunting musical with folk-inspired music, based on a true story that became a national newspaper sensation and one of the first major news stories to be reported using the new technology of broadcast radio. We close with Ranjit Bolt's dazzling and energetic translation of Molière's **Tartuffe**, a satire of religious hypocrisy.*

We strive to maximize the access, interest, and impact of theatre for our diverse audiences. Our productions will ignite exciting dialogue through talkbacks, panel discussions, and other artist-interface opportunities.



Harris Smith
Chair





THE ODYSSEY

By Homer

Adapted and originally directed by

Mary Zimmerman

Adapted from the translation of *The Odyssey* by

Robert Fitzgerald

Originally Produced by The Goodman Theatre, Chicago, Illinois on September 17, 1999.

Scenic Designer

Heather Parsell Rogers

Costume Designer

Ariana Hatch

Lighting Designer

Alawna Leilani

Original Music and Sound Designer

Jennifer Jackson

Prop Designer

Arika Schockmel

Dramaturg

Nadia Sine

Hair and Makeup Designer

Steve Mathews

Movement Director

Daniel Charon

Stage Manager

Laney Marsella

Producer

Harris Smith

Director

Alexandra Harbold



BABCOCK THEATRE

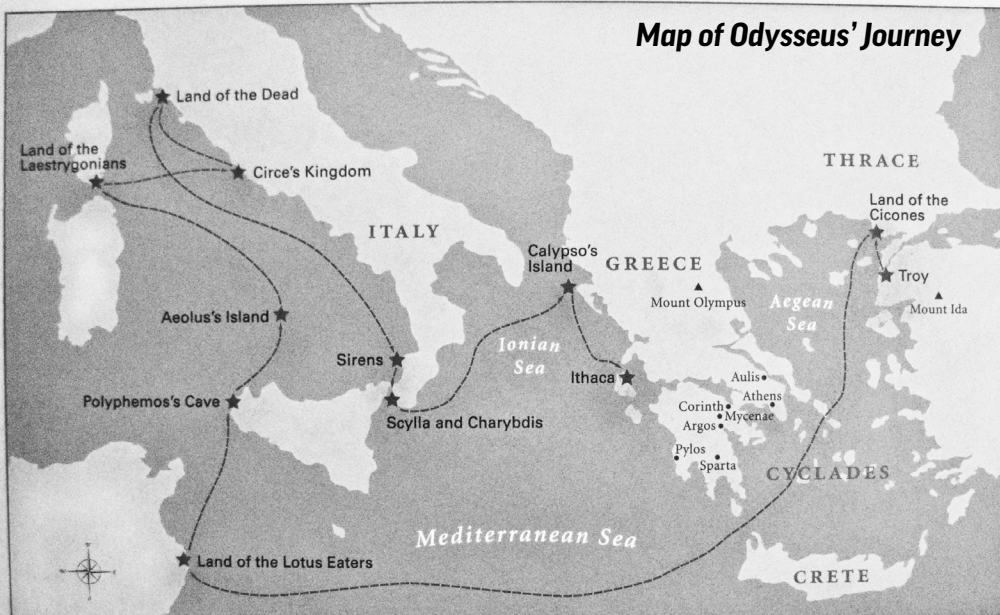
THE ODYSSEY is produced by special arrangement with Bruce Ostler,
BRET ADAMS, LTD., 448 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.





Map of Odysseus' Journey



from L to R: Nicolas Bianchi and Ireland Nichols working with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company Artistic Director, Daniel Charon
Photo: Todd Collins





Welcome Home, Stranger

by Nadia Sine, Dramaturg

Mary Zimmerman's adaptation of *The Odyssey* gives an exciting new spin to Homer's epic poem. As a director/adaptor, Zimmerman has embedded her own physical storytelling into the text, amplifying the motions of being at sea, and internal moods as well. The company has endeavored to join the muscularity of her imaginings with our own in portraying the story of Odysseus returning home from war, encountering myriad obstacles along the way.

Of course, his "odyssey" does not end at sea. It continues with his homecoming as he finally sets foot back on his native land. Director Alexandra Harbold addresses core questions in our production: How do strangers become guests? And what does it feel like to arrive home after war or strife and wonder whether we will be welcomed? Exploring the themes of homecoming and hospitality is urgent today, especially in a political sense. We seem to lean towards distrust or even hatred of the immigrant stranger. However, in order to achieve unity, we need to see one another as equals, and appreciate others for their safe arrival into our lives, regardless of background or past history. Hospitality is a virtue, and the *Odyssey* shows us how to treat strangers as guests. It is our duty as humans to treat others as we ourselves want to be treated.

Needless to say, hospitality can sometimes produce problems. Welcoming strangers involves risk. Strangers can invade one's home and take advantage of kindness. Even violence can ensue—Odysseus himself slaughters the "un-welcomed" guests and those who don't act cordially. Both parties have an obligation to behave humanely so the host-guest interaction can cultivate a genuine friendship.

Despite the danger of extremes—idealistic or worst-case—our fundamental responsibility still stands. Whoever approaches us, whether on the street or in our own home, we should simply greet them kindly. The most painless way to treat someone is to be a good person. As Telemachus declares to the suitors in his home, "You others, I will suffer no viciousness against a guest./I know what is honorable and what is not." Though he could expel them from his home, he chooses the higher road.

How would we treat strangers in *our* homes? Can we see others as more than mere strangers? These questions arise throughout Odysseus' journey, and ours as well.

For more information on this production of The Odyssey, please visit our dramaturgical website at <https://odysseyuofu.wordpress.com/>





CAST OF CHARACTERS

Odysseus	Benjamin Young
Denizen of Heaven, Ensemble	Favour Bright-Agindotan
Helen, Ensemble	Sydney Beacham
Muse, Ensemble	Olivia Buck
Alcinous, Ensemble	Grace Cawley
Nausicaa, Ensemble	Serena Collins
Odysseus' Mother, Ensemble	Ashley Bostrom
Penelope, Ensemble	Brynn Duncan
Eurycleia, Ensemble	Hannah Keating
Eidothea, Ensemble	Eva Merrill
Athena	Ireland Nichols
Calypso, Ensemble	Fina Posselli
Circe, Ensemble	Mariah Stanelle
Eurylochus, Ensemble	Victoria Wolfe
Telemachus, Ensemble	Amona Faatau
Laertes, Ensemble	Nicolas Bianchi
Aeolus, Ensemble	Danny Borba
Antinous, Ensemble	Brandon Ernst
Hermes, Ensemble	Grayson Kamel
Menelaus, Ensemble	Connor Mamaux-Partridge
Phemios, Ensemble	Dylan Floyd Panter
Zeus, Teiresias	Ethan Hernandez
Mentor, Ensemble	Trey Pullen
Eumaeus, Ensemble	Connor Johnson
Halitherses, Ensemble	Isiah Cambridge
Poseidon, Ensemble	Bakir Mehinovic
Elpenor, Young Menelaus, Ensemble	Matthew Tripp

Setting:

Ithaca, Sparta, Phaeacia, Calypso's Island, Circe's Island, the Underworld.

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

Please join us for a talkback with members of the cast and creative team immediately following the performance on Friday, November 15.





WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

CAST

SYDNEY BEACHAM (Helen) is a sophomore in the ATP. Originally from Southern Utah, she is happy to be making her U and SLC debut in *The Odyssey*. She is grateful to the cast, crew, and company; and for the love and support she's received all along the way.

NICOLAS BIANCHI (Laertes) is a sophomore in the ATP who is excited to perform in their first onstage production with Andra Harbold, who introduced them to acting. Thank you to my fellow actors, friends, family, and supporters. I love you all!

DANNY BORBA (Aeolus) is a sophomore in the ATP. Past credits include Jack Palmer in *The Boys Next Door* and Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Orem High School). He thanks his family for their ongoing support. Special thanks to the crew, Andra, Daniel, and Chessie.

ASHLEY BOSTROM (Odysseus' Mother) is a junior in the ATP and is psyched to be playing in this world of *The Odyssey*. Previous credits include *The Wild Party* (ASU), *Lie of the Mind* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (SLCC). She was the Assistant Director for *Macbeth* (Studio 115). She lovingly thanks her mom, dad, Ives, Connie, Ced, Andra, and her passionate professors and peers for contributing indelibly to her life and path as an artist.

FAVOUR BRIGHT-AGINDOTAN (Denizen of Heaven) is a sophomore majoring in Speech and Hearing Science, and Theatre. She has a passion for acting and wanted to continue to do so at the U, although she was unable to major in it. She is grateful to be able to be a part of this production and program.

OLIVIA BUCK (Muse) is a junior in the MTP. She most recently appeared in the student-led production of *Hippolyta* (PAB 202 and as Elektra in *Big Love* (Babcock Theatre). She is grateful for the opportunity to work with Andra and the talented cast.

ISIAH CAMBRIDGE (Sailor) is a sophomore in the ATP. He's very happy to be a part of the program and to be able to contribute in any way he can. He's excited to be a part of U productions and looks forward to developing his skills as an actor.

GRACE CAWLEY (Alcinous), from Bozeman, MT, is a sophomore in the ATP who is excited to make her U acting debut. She thanks her family and friends for their continued support and patience, and her ATP peers for inspiring her daily.

SERENA COLLINS (Nausicaa) is excited to perform in her first show at the U. One year ago, she moved from Iowa to SLC to attend the ATP. Last spring she played Annelle in *Steel Magnolias* (Hale Center Theatre). She thanks Andra and her parents for believing in her.

BRYNN DUNCAN (Penelope) is thrilled to return to the Babcock stage in this production. She previously performed in *The Rivals* (Babcock Theatre). Other credits include *Julius Caesar* (Studio 115) and *Ring Round the Moon* (U of U). She thanks her family and friends for their support!

BRANDON ERNST (Antinous) is a sophomore in the ATP from Denver, CO. He has performed as Foreman/Bruton in *Les Miserables*, Owen in *The Foreigner*, Michael Kelly in *The Musical Comedy Murders of the 1940s*, and many other roles in Denver. He is excited to make his Utah debut in *The Odyssey*.



WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

AMONA FAATAU (Telemachus) is excited to be performing in his first show at the U. He is a sophomore in the ATP, where he is having the time of his life. He sends special thanks to Hannah, all of his professors, family, friends, and cast members who continue to give him their support.

DYLAN FLOYD PANTER (Phemios/Ensemble) is a junior in the MTP from Brookings, OR. Recent roles include Ensemble Swing/Pit Singer in *Dracula* (MCD), Featured Dancer in *Mamma Mia!* (Ziegfeld), and Ensemble in *Chess: The Musical* (MCD). Over the summer, he was the Male Lead Vocalist Cover/Male Swing for *Big Top* (Lagoon) and choreographer for *Shrek: The Musical* TYA (Ziegfeld).

ETHAN HERNANDEZ (Zeus/Teiresias) is a sophomore in the ATP, he is excited to perform in his first show at the U. He is grateful for his friends and family who have continued to support him. Thank you Linda, Jon, Melody, Jenny, Bri and Riley.

CONNOR NELIS JOHNSON (Eumaeus) is a junior in the ATP. He's over the moon to return to the Babcock after appearing as Sir Anthony Absolute in *The Rivals* and Exhibitionist in *Big Love*. Previous credits include *Hindsight* (Sackerson), *Twelfth Night* (Pioneer Theater Company), *Blackberry Winter* and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (SLAC). Julia Bertoch Scholarship recipient.

GRAYSON JAMES KAMEL (Hermes) is a sophomore in the ATP. He is a graduate of Valor High School and is excited to perform in more Utah shows.

HANNAH KEATING (Eurycleia) is thrilled to be in her first mainstage production at the U. She has previously done technical work at Pioneer Theatre

Company and is working on several student-led productions. She extends a huge thank you to family and friends who keep her grounded. Department of Theatre scholarship recipient.

CONNOR MAMAUX-PARTRIDGE (Menelaus) is excited to be in his first U production. He is a sophomore in the ATP and loves the learning opportunities he's been given and the growth he has made. Favorite roles include Man in Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Bill/Lucentio in *Kiss Me Kate*, and Titus in *The Curious Savage*. Love to his parents, Brian and Alexis, for all their support—love you both!

BAKIR MEHINOVIC (Poseidon) is excited to return to the Babcock stage in this Greek epic after playing Piero in *Big Love* last year. Other roles at the U include Roderigo in *Othello*, and Trigorin in *The Seagull*. Proud recipient of the Etta Keith Eskridge, and Utahna B Meilstrup Scholarships. He thanks his wonderful friends, and his beautiful mother for her undying love and support.

EVA MERRILL (Eidothea) is a sophomore in the MTP, and is making her U debut. She is excited for this opportunity and to be a part of this spectacular cast. She thanks her friends, her fish—Moo and Tink—and Marthe and O for everything. SKO UTES and stay tender!

IRELAND NICHOLS (Athena) is a senior in the ATP, last seen as Bradley in *Men on Boats* (Studio 115). Previous roles include #00 in *The Wolves* (SLAC), Moth in *Love's Labour's Lost* (Studio 115), and Masha in *The Seagull*. She is excited to intern at PTC this coming spring, and can't wait to see where life takes her after she graduates in May, 2020. "Thank you to all the amazing supporters in my life!"



WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

FINA POSSELLI (Calypso) is a junior in the ATP. Previous credits include *The Wolves* (SLAC), *Hindsight* (Sackerson), and *Cabaret* (SLCC Black Box). Next semester she will be the assistant fight director for *She Kills Monsters* (U of U) and after that will be seen in *At The Bottom* (Pinnacle Acting Company). As always, she expresses her love and gratitude for her family, friends, and professors for their endless support.

TREY PULLEN (Mentor) is a sophomore in the MTP. They are honored to bring *The Odyssey* to life with a spectacular cast and crew, under the dynamic direction of Andra. Native to Kentucky, they followed two amazing MTP Kentuckians to their new home in Utah. They thank the Department of Theatre, the College of Fine Arts, and their special and beautiful friends for the continued support and electric energy! Peace, love, and stars!

MARIAH STANELLE (Circe) is a sophomore in the MTP and is thrilled to be in her first production at the U. Recent credits include *A Wall Apart* and *West Side Story* (Grand Theatre). She thanks her friends, family, and teachers for their continued support and encouragement.

MATTHEW TRIPP (Elpenor) is stoked to be in *The Odyssey*. At the U, he has appeared as Stickbug in the student-directed (and really really cool) *Hippolyta*. He also appeared in 2019's *Saturday's Voyeur* (SLAC). This spring, he will play Jewell in the U's play *Floyd Collins*.

VICTORIA WOLFE (Eurylochus) is a sophomore in the ATP, excited for her first show at the U. She thanks everyone who was a part of this production for their hard work and dedication. Most importantly, she sends a thank you to her parents who have supported her on

this journey into acting and continue to support her in all she does.

BENJAMIN YOUNG (Odysseus) is a senior in the ATP. Previous Babcock credits include Wisehammer/Phillip in *Our Country's Good* and Constantine in *Big Love*. Other credits include JJ in *River.Swamp.Cave.Mountain*, Plan-B Theatre Company's Free Elementary School Tour.

CREATIVE TEAM

DANIEL CHARON (Movement Director) has been Artistic Director of SLC's Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company since 2013, and active as a choreographer, teacher, and performer for over twenty-five years. While based in New York City, he maintained a project-based dance company and performed with many dance, opera and theater companies. He regularly creates dances for Ririe-Woodbury, has been commissioned to choreograph new works for many companies, universities, and festivals, and has choreographed multiple operas for the Utah Opera. Daniel teaches master classes and workshops nationally and internationally, has been a guest artist at numerous universities and dance festivals, and was an adjunct faculty member at Hunter College (NYC) and the California Institute of the Arts. Daniel is a BFA graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts and an MFA graduate of the California Institute of the Arts.

CAMILLE DEDMAN (Production Assistant) is a senior in the Theatre Teaching program. This is her third time working on a production at the U, but her first with a real position. She thanks her students for teaching her to not take life too seriously, her mentors for being there for her, and her parents for helping her make the five-hour leap from Idaho to Utah for theatre.



WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

KIERSTEN FARLEY (Scenic Charge) is a senior in the BFA Stage Management Program. This is her first show as scenic charge for the U. Past credits as a scenic painter include *Rivals*, *Men on Boats*, *Big Love*, *Chess*, *The Beautiful Game*, and *You Never Can Tell* (UofU), and *Spamalot* and *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* (Grand Theatre). She thanks her family for their constant love and support. Utahna B. Meilstrup Scholarship recipient.

ABBY FETTERS (Assistant Props Designer) is a senior in the Stage Management Program, excited to work on props for the first time. Previous Stage Management credits include *Men on Boats* and *A Dangerous Game* (Studio 115). Previous Assistant Stage Management credits include *Dracula*, *Steel Pier* (MCD), *Oslo* (PTC), *The Beautiful Game* (Babcock Theatre), and *Eclipsed* (Studio 115). She thanks her friends and family for all of their support.

ALEXANDRA HARBOLD (Director) is Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Flying Bobcat Theatrical Laboratory and Assistant Professor of Directing with the Department of Theatre. Recent projects include directing *Death of a Driver* (Salt Lake Acting Company), *The Night Witches* (Egyptian YouTheatre), and *The Rivals* (Babcock) and dramaturging *Lifespan of a Fact* (Pioneer Theatre Company). Upcoming projects: *The Live Creature & Ethereal Things* (Flying Bobcat, in collaboration with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company), directing *At the Bottom* (Pinnacle Acting Company) and dramaturging *Mary Stuart* (PTC). Ever thanks to Daniel, Chessie, Stage Management and *The Odyssey* Company and Creative Team.

AILISH HARRIS (Assistant Stage Manager) is a fourth-year Stage Management and PADP student. Past SM credits include *Death of the*

American Teenager (Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Alice* (Kingsbury Hall), and *Big Love* (Babcock Theatre). She thanks her family and friends for their endless love and support, Penny Caywood for her constant guidance, and all of her SM colleagues for their enthusiastic assistance.

ARIANA HATCH (Costume Designer) is excited to be working on another U production. Previous credits include Costume Design for *Men on Boats* (Studio 115).

FRANCESCA HSIEH (Assistant Director) is excited to work on *The Odyssey* and to take on her first show as an Assistant Director. She is a junior in the MTP, most recently appearing in *Chess* (MCD). She thanks her family, friends, Penny, and Andra for their support. Proud recipient of the Keith M. and Amy L. Engar Endowed Scholarship.

JENNIFER JACKSON (Original Music and Sound Designer) is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Theatre. Design or original music credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Yale Repertory Theatre); *Lifespan of a Fact* (Pioneer Theatre); *Form of a Girl Unknown*, *Silent Dancer*, *The Wolves*, *Hir*, *Hand to God*, *Harbur Gate*, *Streetlight Woodpecker*, *Blackberry Winter*, *Two Stories* (Salt Lake Acting Company); *Twelfth Night*, *The Last Five Years*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry IV, Part I* (Salt Lake Shakespeare); *The Orphan* (CIB Theatre Company, NYC); and *Ion* (Westminster College).

DANI LINCOLN (Assistant Sound Designer) is a junior in the Stage Management Program. She is excited to work outside her major with Jen as an assistant sound designer, especially on such a sound-heavy show. She thanks her family for all the support they have given.





WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

LANEY MARSELLA (Stage Manager) is a senior in the BFA Stage Management program and a junior in the BFA PADP with a props emphasis. Past SM credits include the fall 2018 and spring 2019 Musical Theatre Ensemble Showcases (Studio 115). Past ASM Credits include *Company*, *Big Love* (Babcock Theatre), and *Twelfth Night* (PTC). Past assistant prop design credits include *Dracula: the Musical* (MCD).

MAXWELL PARIS (Assistant Stage Manager), from Wisconsin, is thrilled to work on his fourth show at the U. He is a junior in the Stage Management program. Previous ASM credits include *Men on Boats* (Studio 115) and *Chess* (MCD). He has also acted as a dresser for *Sweat*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Mamma Mia!* (PTC).

HEATHER PARSELL ROGERS (Scenic Design) is in her third year in the PADP, majoring in costume design. This is her first set design and she is happy to be part of this experience. Costume design credits include *Dracula* and *The Rivals*. She thanks her family for their support and sacrifice as she works towards her dreams. Grateful recipient of the Christine Macken Memorial scholarship.

NADIA SINE (Dramaturg) is a BA Theatre Studies major. This is her final year at the U and she has been so thrilled to work as a student dramaturg on this show. Performance credits include OG Howland/Chief Tsauwiat in *Men on Boats* (Studio 115), Sam Craig in *Our Town*, and Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (IVC), and many more. Grateful recipient of the Ralph E. and Winnifred S. Margetts Scholarship for dramaturgy. She truly hopes you enjoy the show!

HARRIS SMITH (Producer) is the Department of Theatre Chair at the University of Utah. He was formerly the Director of the Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as well as Head of the Professional Actor Training Program. He earned his MFA in Acting from the University of Washington School of Drama. He is a Certified Teacher of stage combat through the Society of American Fight Directors. His work as an actor, fight director and movement coach includes St. Louis Black Repertory, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Capital Repertory (NY), Seattle Children's Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival, A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle), Sacramento Theatre Company, and Shakespeare on the Green (Nebraska), as well as other national and international venues.

ADDITIONAL MOVEMENT BY

Olivia Buck, Francesca Hsieh,
Hannah Keating, Eva Merrill, Company



PRODUCTION STAFF AND ADVISORS

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Faculty Advisor for Set Design Gage Williams
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Assistant Production Manager Chloe Mason
Assistant Stage Managers Max Erickson, Ailish Harris
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Scenic Charge Kiersten Farley
Assistant Props Designer Abby Fетters
Assistant Sound Designer Dani Lincoln
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Special Thanks

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American Sign Language interpretation
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Marriott Center For Dance
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MACBETH

Studio 115
OCT 5, 2019 at 2 PM

THE ODYSSEY

Babcock Theatre
NOV 9, 2019 at 2 PM

SHE KILLS MONSTERS

Kingsbury Hall
JAN 18, 2020 at 2 PM

FLOYD COLLINS

Babcock Theatre
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TARTUFFE

Studio 115
APR 4, 2020 at 2 PM





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