

## steirischer herbst 2016

### Biographies

**Philippe Quesne // Morag Myerscough & Luke Morgan // Lemm&Barkey / Needcompany // Ingrid Fiksdal / Jonas Corell Petersen // Blitz Theatre Group // Apichatpong Weerasethakul // Regine Dura & Hans-Werner Kroesinger // Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe // Taoufiq Izeddiou / Anania Danses // Milo Rau / IIPM – International Institute of Political Murder // El Conde de Torrefiel // Steffani Jemison / Justin Hicks // Julian Hetzel // Philipp Gehmacher // Monika M. Kalcsics / Eugene Quinn // Rainer Prohaska // Jörg Piringer // Zasha Colah // Kiluanji Kia Henda // Jochen Becker / Daniel Kötter / metroZones // Mamaza // Stefan Beer / Georg Klüver-Pfandtner / junger\_beer // Natalie Ofenböck & Der Nino aus Wien // Teresa Präauer // Daniel Wisser**

#### **Philippe Quesne (FR)**

**Philippe Quesne**, born in Paris in 1970, works as a director, set designer and performance artist. Quesne studied Fine Art, Visual Design and Stage Design, later working as a set designer for theatre productions and exhibitions before finally founding the Vivarium Studio Company in 2003. Together with his interdisciplinary company, Quesne conceives and stages performances in which bodies are closely linked with their surroundings, thus mingling classical theatre with visual art and performance. His first piece *La Démangeaison des ailes*, that premièred in 2003, also draws on these elements, as do his subsequent performances based on music and dance. *Die Nacht der Maulwürfe (Welcome to Caveland!)* by Philippe Quesne, who was appointed Director of the Théâtre Nanterre-Amandiers near Paris in 2013, is now set to kick off steirischer herbst.

#### **Morag Myerscough & Luke Morgan (UK)**

Designer and artist **Morag Myerscough** founded the London-based studio myerscough in 1993. She studied at the Royal College of Art before working as an illustrator and freelance artist. Myerscough founded her own studio in 1993. In the years following its foundation, studio myerscough has become one of the UK's most productive and well-known artist collectives, with expressive power and vitality being the defining characteristics of their works. Installation artist, painter and musician **Luke Morgan** is also a member of studio myerscough. After studying at the Central School for Art and Design in London, Morgan went on to work as a designer, his works going on show at the Tate Gallery, among other venues, and as singer of the band The Highliners. Myerscough and Morgan also founded the loose-knit artist collective Supergrouplondon in 2010.

//supergrouplondon.co.uk

//lukemorgan.co.uk

#### **Lemm&Barkey / Needcompany (BE)**

**Needcompany**, founded in 1986 by director Jan Lauwers and choreographer Grace Ellen Barkey ranks among the most important multidisciplinary theatre companies of their time. The group's works, one opening the steirischer herbst festival in 2014 (*All Tomorrow's Parties*), operate between classical theatre, dance and performance, visual art and film. Barkey joined Needcompany member and costume designer Lot Lemm to launch the **Lemm&Barkey** project in 2004. The multi-faceted collaboration of the two focuses primarily on installations (e.g. *The Porcelain Project*, 2007), but also comprises design, video art and dance, as demonstrated, for example, by their most recent collaboration *Odd? But True* (2013). *Forever* is the duo's latest piece and is set to première at the 2016 steirischer herbst.

//needcompany.org

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**Inгри Fiksdal (NO) / Jonas Corell Petersen (DK)**

**Inгри Fiksdal**, born in Oslo in 1982, lives and works as a dancer and choreographer in the Norwegian capital. After studying at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance and the Oslo National Academy of the Arts, Fiksdal debuted with *The Orchard Ballads* in 2011, in which she combines elements of dance, performance and installation, as in subsequent productions. Fiksdal's works deal with the interplay of perception and emotion, themes which they visualise on stage by means of choreography but also lighting, stage set and costumes. The Norwegian artist, who is currently doing a residency with the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme, is presenting her latest work in 2016: *State*, set to première at steirischer herbst.

//ingrifiksdal.com

**Jonas Corell Petersen**, born in Copenhagen in 1979, works as a director, author and dramaturge. Petersen studied Theory of Theatre, Philosophy and Art History in Copenhagen before moving to Norway in 2001, where he studied Theatre Directing at the National Academy of the Arts until 2010. He won an award for best emerging young director at the European Fast Forward festival for his diploma production of Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther*. Petersen received the Norwegian Hedda Award for best production for children and youth for *Eg/Ik/Ich/I*. The Danish-born director is currently working at the Norwegian National Theatre in Oslo, where his latest work *Øy* premiered. Petersen also works as a dramaturge at the Norwegian Centre for New Playwriting (Dramatikkens hus).

**Blitz Theatre Group (GR)**

The theatre collective **Blitz Theatre Group** was founded in Athens in 2004 by Aggeliki Papoulia, Christos Passalis and Giorgos Valaïs. *Motherland* premiered two years later, the debut production of the trio who work jointly and equally on the conception, script development, direction and dramaturgy of their plays. The group find their inspiration and the basis of their material in world literature, pop culture and history, for example Goethe's *Faust* (in *Joy Division*, 2009) and poems by T.S. Eliot (in *Vanya. 10 years after*, 2014) along with twentieth-century history (*Guns! Guns! Guns!*, 2012). The Blitz Theatre Group consistently focuses on socially relevant themes, combining them with elements of music, dance and performance to create playful and up-to-date productions.

//theblitz.gr

**Apichatpong Weerasethakul (TH)**

**Apichatpong Weerasethakul**, born in Bangkok in 1970, works as a film director and script-writer, but is also active in visual and performance art. Weerasethakul began making short films while still taking his bachelor's course in Architecture at the University of Khon Kaen. In 1999, two years after obtaining his master's degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, he founded his own production firm Kick the Machine Films, that presented Weerasethakul's first full-length film the following year, the documentary *Dokfar Nai Meu Marn (Mysterious Objects at Noon)*. By breaking with classical narrative structures and examining such topics as memory, politics and sociology, Weerasethakul became one of Asia's most well-known and prize-winning directors. His feature film *Lung Boonmee Raluek Chat (Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives)* (2010), for example, was awarded the Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival – with Weerasethakul becoming the first Thai to receive this distinction. Alongside making films, Apichatpong Weerasethakul also works as an installation artist, exhibiting at the documenta (13) and the Tate Gallery, among other venues. *Fever Room*, his first stage production, is showing for the first time in the German-speaking world at steirischer herbst.

//kickthemachine.com

**Regine Dura / Hans-Werner Kroesinger (DE)**

**Regine Dura** works as an author, dramaturge and documentary film director. Dura studied Political Science, Theatre, Film and Media Studies, German Studies and Art Education in Marburg and Frankfurt am Main and Video at the Academy of Arts in Berlin. Since 1996 she has been working as a freelance director and curator and was awarded the Max Ophüls Prize for her documentary *White Blood/Weißes Blut* in 2012. In 2014 she curated the exhibition *Open Spaces* accompanying the theatre production *Schlachtfeld Erinnerung 1914/2014*. The show was also held at HAU Hebbel am Ufer in Berlin and the Tarabya Cultural Academy in Istanbul, among other venues. Together with Hans-

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Werner Kroesinger, Regine Dura has been working as a dramaturge on developing and researching for documentary theatre production since 2000.

**Hans-Werner Kroesinger**, born in Bonn in 1962, works as a theatre director and author. Kroesinger began working as assistant director and dramaturge for US director Robert Wilson in New York, Milan and Berlin while still studying Drama, Theatre and Media at the Institute of Applied Theatre Studies in Gießen. After graduating, Kroesinger initially worked as artistic assistant to Heiner Müller at Deutsches Theater Berlin before starting to stage his own productions in 1993 based on the tradition of documentary theatre of the 1960s and 1970s and dealing primarily with social, historical and global political topics. Kroesinger received the 2007 Brüder Grimm Prize for his production *Kindertransporte*; *Ruanda Revisited* was invited to the Impulse Festival in 2009. Kroesinger's latest performance *Willkommen in der Europaschutzzone* – in collaboration with Regine Dura – is premiering at steirischer herbst.

#### **Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe (AT/CD)**

**Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe**, born in Kinshasa/Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1971, lives and works as a performance artist, choreographer and visual artist in Vienna. She grew up in France and studied Fine Art at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in the northern French city of Tourcoing. After graduating in 1998, Tambwe began working as a dancer and performer, focusing on the manipulation of bodies in Western Europe and Congo. In addition to her performances staged at the Impulstanzfestival, among other venues, that always incorporate the installation-based space created around them, Tambwe also works as a multimedia visual artist. Her most recent exhibition *La Philosophie Banane* was shown at Weltmuseum Wien in 2014.  
[//elitambwe.com](http://elitambwe.com)

#### **Taoufiq Izzeddiou / Anania Danses (MA)**

**Taoufiq Izzeddiou**, born in Marrakesh/Morocco in 1975, works as a choreographer, dancer, festival director and dance teacher. After studying Architecture, Izzeddiou found his way by way of boxing and acting to contemporary dance, that he got to know at the Institut Français de Marrakech and through choreographers such as Mathilde Monnier and Bernardo Montet. He presented his debut choreography *170 huit pas avec les artistes* in 2000. Following the success of the group piece *Fina Kenti* (2003) Izzeddiou launched the first Moroccan contemporary dance company with **Anania Danses**; two years later he founded *On Marche*, the country's first dance festival, of which he is Director. Izzeddiou also worked as a dance teacher from 2003 to 2005 and from 2012 to 2015. His pieces, that negotiate social, political and spiritual themes, have been performed not only in Africa, but also in Europe, the Middle East and America. Taoufiq Izzeddiou, who ranks among the most important choreographers of the African continent, is staging his latest work *En Alerte* at steirischer herbst.  
[//taoufiqizzeddiou.com](http://taoufiqizzeddiou.com)

#### **Milo Rau / IIPM – International Institute of Political Murder (DE/CH)**

**Milo Rau**, born in Bern in 1977, works as a theatre and film director and as an essayist and lecturer. After studying Sociology, German Studies and Romance Studies in Paris, Zürich and Berlin, in 2007 Rau founded the theatre and film production company **IIPM – International Institute of Political Murder**, dedicated to the multimedia adaptation of political and social conflicts. The documentary works staged and produced by Rau together with the IIPM, of which he is Director, have been performed at the Wiener Festwochen, the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels and the Berliner Theatertreffen, among other venues. Milo Rau, who ranks among the most renowned and sought-after European directors, is also appearing for the first time at steirischer herbst with *Empire*, the final instalment of his Europe trilogy.  
[//international-institute.de](http://international-institute.de)

#### **El Conde de Torrefiel (ES)**

The Barcelona-based artist collective **El Conde de Torrefiel** was founded in 2010 by Tanya Beyeler, born in 1980, and Pablo Gisbert, born in 1982. The two studied Theatre and Philosophy and are also members of the Spanish La Veronal

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dance company. El Conde de Torrefiel presented their first performance in the year of their foundation, *La historia del Rey vencido por el aburrimiento* (The story of the king overcome by boredom). Typically for the collective, the piece operates in the realm between choreography, theatre and video installation. The company produced three new pieces from 2011 to 2013, gaining them fame beyond the borders of Spain. El Conde de Torrefiel are now appearing for the first time in Austria, at the 2016 steirischer herbst, with their sixth and latest piece *Guerilla*.

//elcondedetorrefiel.com

#### **Steffani Jemison / Justin Hicks (US)**

**Steffani Jemison**, born in Berkeley/California in 1981, is a New York-based interdisciplinary artist. After studying Comparative Linguistics at Columbia University, she attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, graduating with a Master of Fine Arts in 2009. Jemison presented her first works while still studying, operating in the sphere between visual, video and performance art. Her collaborative project *Alpha's Bet Is Not Over Yet* (2011) has been shown at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York and at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art in Copenhagen, among other venues; she also features in the permanent public exhibition of the Museum of Modern Art (New York). Jemison is currently an artist in residence in the Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program Brooklyn and teaches at Parsons The New School for Design.

//steffanijemison.com

**Justin Hicks** is a US composer, sound designer and performer who worked as musical director together with Steffani Jemison on their *Promise Machine* project presented at the New York Museum of Modern Art in 2015. Hicks, whose works were performed at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (New York), among other places, is also involved in the *Geneva Project* (2016) by Jennifer Harrison Newman and Charlotte Brathwaite and in 2010 was a member of the *6-8 Months Space* project initiated by Kara Walker. He also published his debut album *Scratches From Mercy* the same year.

//justinhicksmusic.com

#### **Julian Hetzel (NL/DE)**

**Julian Hetzel**, born in the Black Forest, Germany, in 1981, currently lives in Utrecht/Netherlands, where he works as a freelance artist. Hetzel studied Visual Communication at the Bauhaus University in Weimar until 2008, where he launched the audiovisual studio project *YouAreWatchingUs* in 2005. The following year he created the media art project *preENTER*, that was performed at the ARS Electronica in 2008, among other venues, and the *Monokultur* performance shown at Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar. After graduating, Hetzel continued training at the DasArts art academy in Amsterdam. His diploma performance *I'm Not Here Says The Void* premiered at Theater Frascati in Amsterdam in 2014. Hetzel, who in addition to working as a multidisciplinary artist is also a member of the electropop band Pentatones, will also be visiting Graz for the first time in 2016: his performance *The Benefactor* will be showing at steirischer herbst along with his latest piece *Schuldfabrik*, that is set to premiere at the festival.

//julianhetzel.schnigg.com

#### **Philipp Gehmacher (AT)**

**Philipp Gehmacher**, born in Vienna in 1975, is a choreographer and dancer. From 1993 to 1999 he studied at the London Contemporary Dance School and the Laban Dance Centre, where he conceptualised his first choreographic works. In 2001 Gehmacher opened Tanzquartier Wien with his duet *good enough*, presenting his first full-length group piece *mountains are mountains* two years later. His first cooperation with US choreographer Meg Stuart – *MAYBE FOREVER* (2007) – was shown at more than forty international festivals and received the Special Award from the BITEF festival in Belgrade. The same year Gehmacher commenced his collaboration with Russian artist Vladimir Miller, giving rise to *dead reckoning* (2009) and *in their name* (2010) performed at steirischer herbst, among other productions. Like *in their name*, Gehmacher's latest piece *Die Dinge der Welt* is also set to premiere at steirischer herbst.

//philippgehmacher.net

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**Monika M. Kalcsics (AT) / Eugene Quinn (GB)**

**Monika M. Kalcsics**, born in Graz in 1974, lives and works as a cultural spatial designer and journalist in Vienna. From 1993 to 1998 she studied Political Science, Romance Studies and Spanish in Innsbruck, Madrid and Mexico City and has been working for Ö1 since 2000. In addition to her work as a journalist, Kalcsics was also a Caritas relief worker from 2003 to 2010 and was a partner in the media production firm name>it, that she cofounded, from 2007 to 2012. Kalcsics also joined Eugene Quinn to found the organisation space and place dedicated to urban spatial design.

**Eugene Quinn**, born in London in 1967, lives as a journalist and spatial designer in Vienna. Among other things, Quinn worked as a chef, Greenpeace activist, DJ and radio host, before becoming event manager with the Vienna-based media production firm name>it cofounded by Monika M. Kalcsics. Together with Kalcsics, Quinn founded the multidisciplinary spatial design organisation space and place in 2011.

//spaceandplace.at

**Rainer Prohaska (AT)**

**Rainer Prohaska**, born in Krems an der Donau in 1966, lives as a multimedia and multidisciplinary artist in Vienna. Prohaska worked as a graphic and industrial designer before studying Experimental Design, Experimental Media Art and Digital Art in Linz, Vienna and Kraków from 1999 to 2005. He has since explored all facets of installation and performance art, his oeuvre ranging from architecture (*Un Vol De*, 2011) to transportation construction (*Cargo*, 2014) and classical exhibition (*Résidence Modulaire*, 2012) and graphic design (stamp series for the Austrian Post Office, 2011). Prohaska, who was awarded the 2015 Austrian State Grant for Fine Art, was also artist in residence in Finland, South Korea and China.

//rainer-prohaska.net

**Jörg Piringer (AT)**

**Jörg Piringer**, born in 1974, lives and works as a freelance writer, media artist and musician in Vienna. Piringer studied IT at Vienna University of Technology and published his first computer game *Der Name des Bruders* in 1997. The following year he founded the First Viennese Vegetable Orchestra and the Institute of Transacoustic Research. Piringer has featured at numerous national and international festivals with his artistic works, that cover a wide sphere between poetry, performance, sound installation and electronic music, and was also artist in residence in the United Kingdom and Estonia. He also received the "lime\_lab" prize for innovative radio plays in 2016.

//joerg.piringer.net

**Zasha Colah (IN)**

**Zasha Cerizza Colah** is an art historian and curator, and is a member of the curatorial collaborative and union of artists Clark House in Bombay. Zasha is interested in cultural sovereignty and the way art addresses injustice and legal frameworks. Her curatorial work researches instances of collective imagination under situations of political exigency, political and philosophical motivations for choreography, and under-represented art historical narratives. Her writing is to appear this year in "20th Century Indian Art"(Skira), and "The New Curator" (Laurence King) and "The Curatorial Conundrum" (MIT Press). She is currently also editing a publication on the art of Myanmar since the late 1980s, and on the history of curated exhibitions in India (Marg). Recently she has curated "Kamarados" at the Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam; "I love you Sugar Kane" at the Institute of Contemporary Art Indian Ocean, Mauritius; "no, it wasn't the locust cloud" at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai; "An Error in Helsinki" for Checkpoint Helsinki; and is co-curator of the Pune Biennale in 2017.

**Kiluanji Kia Henda (PT/AO)**

**Kiluanji Kia Henda**, born in Luanda/Angola in 1979, lives and works as a photographer and visual artist in his home city and in the Portuguese capital Lisbon. After first participations in group shows in Angola and Spain, he presented his first solo exhibition *Ngola Bar* in 2007, that was shown at the 1st Luanda Triennale and the 52nd Venice Biennale,

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among other venues. Over the following years Henda was in Cape Town, Venice, Paris and Amman/Jordan, conceptualising and realising other internationally exhibited projects during these residencies, including *self-portrait as a white man* (2010) and *Homem Novo* (2012). The Angolan Ministry of Cultural Affairs awarded him the National Prize of Art and Culture in 2012. In 2015 Henda also featured for the first time at steirischer herbst as part of the special exhibition *Das ist nicht meine Geschichte!*.

#### **Jochen Becker / Daniel Kötter / metroZones (DE)**

**Jochen Becker** lives in Berlin. As well as being an editor and author (e.g. *Kabul/Teheran 1976ff*, 2006), Becker works as a curator (e.g. *Urban Cultures of Global Players*, 2012) and university lecturer (since 2014 at the Royal Institute of Art Stockholm, for instance). In addition, he was artistic director of the *Global Players Project* at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin in 2012. In 2007 his focus on urban culture led to him co-founding **metroZones**, an independent association for critical city research. Both interdisciplinary and supranational, the project is situated at the interface of art, science and politics. Its objective is to focus on the public treatment and politicisation of urban issues, everyday worlds and conflicts.

//metrozones.info

**Daniel Kötter**, born in Bergisch Gladbach in 1975, is a director, film-maker and video artist. From 1996 to 2001 he studied Music and Theatre Studies and Philosophy in Berlin and went on to concentrate on the blending of techniques in structuralist experimental films on the one hand, and performative and documentary elements on the other. The resulting works were in many cases funded by the German Goethe Institute and shown internationally within the context of numerous film and video art festivals and also in galleries and concert halls. Kötter's six-part experimental documentary film series *state-theatre* (2009-2014), for example, was produced and presented in Nigeria, Iran and the USA, among other countries. He is currently collaborating with composer Hannes Seidl on a musical theatre project *Ökonomien des Handelns 1-3* (begun in 2013), the first part of which, *Kredit*, premièred at steirischer herbst in 2013.

//danielkoetter.de

#### **Mamaza (DE/CH/IL/GR)**

Ioannis Mandafounis (born in Athens in 1981), Fabrice Mazliah (born in Geneva in 1972) and May Zarhy (born in Tel Aviv in 1984) met in 2005 during an engagement at the William Forsythe Company. Four years later they founded the **Mamaza** artist collective currently based in Frankfurt am Main, operating in the realm between dance, performance and visual art. The collaboration has so far given rise to seven stage productions and three installations that the collective refer to as "enacted thoughts". Mamaza were also associated artist at deSingel Theater in Antwerp from 2011 to 2012 and artists in residence at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm in Frankfurt am Main from 2012 to 2014, where they realised their installation *Garden State* (2014) for the first time

//mamaza.net

#### **Stefan Beer / Georg Klüver-Pfandtner / junger\_beer (AT)**

**Georg Klüver-Pfandtner** studied Performance Research in Gießen and Fine Art/Contemporary Practice and Choreography in Falmouth/United Kingdom. Together with architect **Stefan Beer**, who cofounded the Viennese architectural firm **junger\_beer** in 1999, Klüver-Pfandtner has realised numerous artistic projects, among others in collaboration with the theatre collectives Die Rabtaldirndl and Fourdummies, whose performance project *Flash Forward* was part of the 2015 steirischer herbst. The duo is part of the festival once again this year, this time designing the Orpheum venue in Graz as club panamur.

//jungerbeer.at

#### **Natalie Ofenböck & Der Nino aus Wien (AT)**

**Nino Mandl**, born in Vienna in 1987, works as a musician and poet under the pseudonym "Der Nino aus Wien". He presented the first of eight studio albums, *The Ocelot Show*, in 2008. In 2011 Mandl joined the musician, poet and illustrator **Natalie Ofenböck**, born in Vienna in 1987, to found the band "Krixi, Kraxi und die Kroxn", publishing their

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first and so far only album *Die Gegenwart hängt uns schon lange zum Hals heraus* the same year. The duo's next collaboration followed one year later, the audio book *Fräulein Gustl* based on writings of Arthur Schnitzler. Pieces from the latest musical collaboration of Ofenböck and Mandl – "The Green Album" – were presented at steirischer herbst in 2015.

//derninoauswien.com

//ofenboeck.com

#### **Teresa Präauer (AT)**

**Teresa Präauer**, born in Linz in 1979, lives as an author and visual artist in Vienna. Präauer studied German Studies and Painting in Salzburg, Berlin and Vienna, publishing her first novel *Für den Herrscher aus Übersee* in 2012, for which she received the Aspekte literature prize for the best German-language prose debut. Her second work, *Johnny und Jean*, was awarded the Hölderlin incentive prize, among others, and was nominated for the Leipziger Buchmesse prize in 2015. In addition to working as an author, Präauer is also a visual artist, her work ranging from illustration (e.g. *Die Gans im Gegenteil* by Wolf Haas, 2009) and painting to video art.

#### **Daniel Wisser (AT)**

**Daniel Wisser**, born in Klagenfurt in 1971, lives and works as an author and musician in Vienna. His debut novel *Dopplergasse acht* came out in 2003, with Wisser receiving the Austrian State Grant for Literature four years later. The prose-writer and lyric poet was nominated for the 2011 Ingeborg Bachmann Prize for *Standby*. The novel of the same name published the same year was awarded the Carinthian Literature Prize, among other distinctions. His latest work, *Kein Wort für Blau* – a collection of stories – was presented in 2016. In addition to working as a writer, Wisser is also a musician and founded the First Viennese Home Organ Orchestra in 1994, that has since published nine records, winning the Protestsongcontest with their song *Widerstand ist Ohm* in 2009.

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