

# NORA

A STAGE VERSION OF IBSEN'S *A DOLL'S HOUSE* BY  
**INGMAR BERGMAN**

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY  
**FREDERICK J. MARKER  
& LISE-LONE MARKER**

DIRECTED BY  
**CAMERON WATSON**

*APR 21 - MAY 26, 2024*



**ANTAEUS**  
*Theatre Company*

# Antaeus Leadership Note



*Photo by Frank Ishman*

On behalf of all of us at the Antaeus Theatre Company, welcome to *Nora*, Ingmar Bergman's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece, *A Doll's House*. We are thrilled to bring this powerful and thought-provoking work to our stage, and add it to our ever-expanding classic repertoire.

From the moment we heard this adaptation in our Library several months ago, we knew we wanted to produce this play. It not only embodies our mission of sharing timely and timeless stories with our audiences, but it also explores relevant themes of identity, societal expectations, and the pursuit of personal freedom. We knew that Cameron Watson would be the perfect director for this play so we were thrilled when it resonated with him as well.

Cameron's visionary approach to storytelling has captivated audiences time and time again at Antaeus with past productions of *Top Girls*, *Picnic*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *The Little Foxes*. We have no doubt that *Nora* will be equally compelling under his direction.

Thank you for your continued support of Antaeus Theatre Company. Together, we invite you to delve into the world of *Nora* as we explore the boundless possibilities of the human spirit.

Best,

Bill Brochtrup  
Artistic Director

Ana Rose O'Halloran  
Producing Executive Director

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Originally produced by the Pittsburgh Public Theatre  
as part of a double-bill entitled *Nora - Julie*

Antaeus Theatre Company Presents

# Nora

A Stage Version of Ibsen's A Doll's House by Ingmar Bergman  
Translated and Adapted by Frederick J. Marker and Lise-Lone Marker  
Directed by Cameron Watson

Scenic Designer

Tesshi Nakagawa

Lighting Designer

Jared A. Sayeg\*\*

Props Designer

Aaron Lyons

Choreographer

Jean Michelle Sayeg

Production Stage Manager

Talya Camras

Costume Designer

Terri A. Lewis\*\*

Sound Designer

Jeff Gardner\*\*

Intimacy Director

Carly DW Bones

Composer

Ellen Mandel

Assistant Director

Max Tel

Assistant Stage Manager

Casey Collaso

## Ensemble

Michael Kirby\*, Mildred Marie Langford\*, Peter James Smith,  
Brian Tichnell, Jocelyn Towne\*



*\*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. This production is presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Los Angeles Membership Company Rule.*



The Director is a Member of the  
**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



The Designers at this Theatre  
are Represented by  
**United Scenic Artists • Local USA 829**  
of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

\*\*

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

## Director's Note

I was recently teaching my acting class and we were discussing Henrik Ibsen. I asked the class, "Does anyone know why Ibsen is considered the 'father of modern drama'?" A young actor looked up and said, "I think it's because he started writing about real people who were going through real things and it made you feel like it was you." And, class dismissed. I don't think I have ever heard it said so simply, and so clearly.

Shedding unlikely plots and oversized characters, Ibsen brought us into regular people's homes and let us in on their secrets and lies, weaknesses and strengths, and struggle for happiness. *A Doll's House*, considered by many his masterwork, is still one of the most widely produced plays globally, as well as one of the most famous gender political moments in world literature. Ingmar Bergman, the Swedish master filmmaker and theater director, adapted *A Doll's House* in 1981 to "get to the essence" of the story of a woman with an awakening towards a steady and sober view of reality. Much has been written about Nora and her journey in Ibsen's play and I would never dare to reinvent or redesign what scholars and literary experts have been saying about her since 1879. But my interest in this adaptation, in telling this story, in addition to the obvious, was to explore what Nora feels. And what Torvald feels. What Krogstad and Mrs. Linde and Dr. Rank feel. All five of them are "real" people going through "real" things, each with a very troubled, aching heart. Their struggles, either right or wrong, wise or unwise, are what make us lean in and watch and care.

**Cameron Watson**, Director *Nora*

# Nora

## Cast of Characters

NILS KROGSTAD Michael Kirby

MRS. LINDE Mildred Marie Langford

DOCTOR RANK Peter James Smith

TORVALD HELMER Brian Tichnell

NORA Jocelyn Towne

## Special Thanks

Ramón de Ocampo

Sarah Drew

Kevin Williams

ELAC Theatre

UCLA Prop Shop

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## Land Acknowledgement

Antaeus Theatre Company acknowledges the Gabrielino-Tongva peoples as the traditional caretakers of the land in the Los Angeles basin where Antaeus is located. We pay our respect to the Ancestors, Elders, and Relations – past, present, and emerging.

ENSEMBLE - NORA



Michael Kirby



Mildred Marie Langford



Peter James Smith



Brian Tichnell



Jocelyn Towne

# CAST

## **MICHAEL KIRBY (NILS KROGSTAD):**

Michael first worked on *Nora* as a student at ANTAEUS many years ago. Since then, with ANTAEUS: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (dir. Cameron Watson), *Henry IV*, *Chekhov x 4*, *A Tale of Charles Dickens*. Other Theater: *Bent*, *What the Butler Saw*, *School of Night*, *The Goat* (Mark Taper Forum); *Dracula* (LA Theatre Works); *Tickled Pink* (Laguna Playhouse); *The American Plan*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Measure for Measure*, *Hamlet*, *Othello* (The Old Globe); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Kingsmen); *The Glass Menagerie* (Syracuse Stage); *Leading Ladies* (Barnstormers Theatre); *Spite for Spite*, *Don Juan* (Andak Stage Company). Off-Broadway: *Othello*, *Richard III*. Film: *Brown Paper Bag*, *Weekend at Jesus'*, *Hell's Heart*, *Connected*, *Passing Normal*, *Chase The Slut*, *Benevolence*. M.F.A. Old Globe. michaelkirbyactor.com

## **MILDRED MARIE LANGFORD**

**(MRS. LINDE):** At ANTAEUS: *Native Son* (Kirk Douglas Theatre 2019 Block Party). Other Local Theaters: *The Bluest Eye* (A Noise Within), *The Great Jheri Curl Debate* (East West Players) and *Gunshot Medley: Part 1* (CAB/ Rogue Machine Theatre; Ovation Award nomination). Notable Regional credits include: *Notes from the Field*, *Boulevard of Bold Dreams*, *A Raisin in the Sun* (BTAA nomination), *My Kind of Town* and *In Darfur* (Black Excellence Award nomination) at Timeline Theatre; *Domesticated*, *Animal Farm*, *VENUS* and *The Crucible* (Steppenwolf Theatre); *The Royale* (American Theatre Company,

BTAA winner - Best Featured Actor); *Luck of the Irish* (Next Theatre); *A Raisin in the Sun* (Milwaukee Rep) and *FAILURE: A Love Story* (Victory Gardens Theatre). Film: *Cotton Candy Bubble Gum*, *Morning Steep*, *The Three Phases of Isa*, *Dignity*, *Upload*, *Your Beautiful Baby*, *Concrete Rose* and *Analysis Paralysis*. TV: *Grey's Anatomy*, *Bosch*, *DELILAH*, *Chicago MED*, *Masters of Sex* and *Magic Funhouse*.

## **PETER JAMES SMITH**

**(DOCTOR RANK):** At ANTAEUS: *The Zip Code Plays: 91201: Glendale - The Six Pianos of Miradero*. Other SoCal Theaters: A Noise Within, Open Fist, ESTLA, Moving Arts, Cornerstone, Son of Semele, Playwrights' Arena, Actors' Gang, San Diego Rep, North Coast Rep, Diversionsary, Sledgehammer. Film: *Howdy Neighbor*, *Diminuendo*, *Serenity*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Dead Man on Campus*, *Poker*. TV recurring: *Upload*, *The West Wing*, *Never Have I Ever*, *Bosch*, *Colony*, *Dagnet*. Other TV includes: *Magnum P.I.*, *Bosch: Legacy*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *The Dropout*, *911 Lone Star*, *Glow*, *Brooklyn 99*, *Get Shorty*, *This Is Us*, *Westworld*, *Parenthood*, *Castle*, *24*, *CSI: Miami*, *Monk*, *Friends*, *The King of Queens*, *ER*, *Nothing Sacred*, *Party of Five*, *Clipped*.

## **BRIAN TICHNELL**

**(TORVALD HELMER):** At ANTAEUS: *The Curse of Oedipus*, *Macbeth*, *Peace In Our Time*. Other Notable Theater: *Dream Catcher* (The Fountain), *The Graduate* (LATW National Tour), *Runaway Home* (The Fountain), *Hamlet* (Oxford Shakespeare Festival), *Camino Real* (Boston Court), *Circle Jerk* (RedCat CNP), *Jack Benny* (Padua Playwrights/ Hollywood Fringe). TV: *Silicon Valley*

(recurring), *9-1-1* (recurring), *What/If* (recurring), *I Think You Should Leave*, *The Orville*, *Station 19*, *Castle*, *Newsroom*, *Client List*, *Maron*, *Body of Proof*, *Happy Endings*, and others. Writer and Producer of *Tell Us Why You're Here* (TV series). Acting Instructor at the Michael Laskin Studio, and adjunct professor at LA Mission Community College. Brian loves theater, teaching, his wife Kimberly, and his pug Muttchops :)

### **JOCELYN TOWNE (NORA):**

At ANTAEUS: *The Little Foxes*, *The Hothouse*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Changeling*, *La Ronde*. Other Local Theater: LATW (*Steel Magnolias*, *Fathers and Sons*, *Amadeus*); Playwright's Arena (*Red Ink*); The Getty Villa (*Phaedra*); Sacred Fools (*Free \$\$\$*). TV: *The Kominsky Method*, *Lodge 49*, *Gilmore Girls*. As a filmmaker: *I Am I* (writer, actor, director) (Newport Beach Film Festival Winner Outstanding Achievement in Directing & Champs Élysées Film Festival Nominee Audience Award Best American Feature), *We'll Never Have Paris* (co-director) (Closing night film at Edinburgh Film Festival, SXSW Audience Award Nominee, Newport Beach Film Festival Winner Best Comedy).

## **PRODUCTION**

### **CAMERON WATSON (DIRECTOR):**

At ANTAEUS: *The Little Foxes*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Picnic*, *Top Girls*. Other Theaters: *The Sound Inside* with Amy Brenneman (Pasadena Playhouse); *Love Letters* with Martin Sheen and Melissa Fitzgerald (The Kennedy Center); *On the Other Hand*, *We're Happy, Cock*, *Bled for the Household Truth*, *The Super Variety Match Bonus Round* (Rogue

Machine Theatre); *Beloved and Stupid Kid* (The Road Theatre); *The City of Conversation* (Ensemble Theatre Company); *All My Sons* (Matrix Theatre); *Trying*, *On Golden Pond*, *The Savannah Disputation*, *Educating Rita*, *Grace & Glorie* (Colony Theatre); *I Never Sang for My Father with Philip Baker Hall* (New American Theatre); *I Capture the Castle*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey); *Rolling with Laughter* (Her Majesty's Theatre - London's West End). Cameron wrote and directed the Miramax feature film *Our Very Own*, starring Allison Janney in an Independent Spirit Award-nominated performance. He created, wrote and directed the hit comedy series *Break a Hip*, which garnered Christina Pickles a Primetime Emmy Award for Best Actress. Cameron is a recipient of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Distinguished Achievement in Directing.

### **BILL BROCHTRUP (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR):**

At ANTAEUS: *Cloud 9*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Peace In Our Time*, *The Malcontent*, *Cousin Bette*, *Tonight at 8:30*, *Pera Palas*. Other local Theaters: Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Ensemble Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse, The Fountain Theatre, Boston Court Pasadena, Rogue Machine Theatre, L.A. Theatre Works. Film: *Life as We Know It*, *He's Just Not That into You*, *Ravenous*, *Hypnotized*. TV series regular: "John Irvin" on *NYPD Blue*, *Public Morals*, *Total Security*. TV recurring: "Dr. Joe" on *Major Crimes*, *Shameless*, *After Forever*. [billbrochtrup.com](http://billbrochtrup.com)



**ANA ROSE O'HALLORAN  
(PRODUCING EXECUTIVE**

**DIRECTOR):** Ana Rose joined ANTAEUS in 2015 and has produced over 20 productions during her tenure. Previously, she served as the Senior Director at The Pablove Foundation, and in various roles in the development department at Center Theatre Group. She received her M.F.A. in Theatre Management from California State University, Long Beach, and a B.F.A. in Theatre Management and a B.F.A. in Performance from Ohio University.

**TESSHI NAKAGAWA (SCENIC**

**DIRECTOR):** This is his debut at ANTAEUS. Hailing from Tokyo, Japan, Tesshi has been working in Theater, Film and Commercial industry as Scenic Designer/Art Director. His theater work has been seen in various venues across the Los Angeles area, including Pasadena Playhouse, A Noise Within, Boston Court Pasadena, South Coast Repertory, Lewis Family Playhouse, Sierra Madre Playhouse, East West Players, Los Angeles Theater Center, International City Theater. He is currently an adjunct professor/instructor at East Los Angeles College and UCLA. Graduate of UCLA. [tesshi.com](http://tesshi.com)

**TERRI A. LEWIS (COSTUME**

**DESIGNER):** AT ANTAEUS: *The Little Foxes*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Picnic*, *Henry IV Part One*, and *Top Girls*. Other Local Theaters: *Dream Catcher*, *Babydoll* (The Fountain Theatre); *Forever House* (Skylight Theatre); *Class*, *Bunny Bunny*, *Billy & Ray*, *Laurel & Hardy*, *Souvenir*, *Everybody Say Cheese* (Garry Marshall Theatre); *On Golden Pond*, *Grace & Glorie*, *Educating Rita*, and *The Voice of*

*the Prairie* (The Colony Theatre); *The Habitation of Dragons*, *Steel Magnolias* (Actors Co-Op); and *I Capture the Castle* (Hollywood Food Chain Productions).

**JARED A. SAYEG (LIGHTING**

**DESIGNER):** At ANTAEUS: *Hamlet*, *The Little Foxes*, *Three Days in the Country*, *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*, *Top Girls*, *Picnic*. Jared is a nine-time Ovation Award nominee and winner of the Ovation, StageRaw, Garland, and LADCC Kinetic Lighting Awards. His designs have been seen on Broadway, London, Spain, Edinburgh, Saudi Arabia, Canada and throughout the US. National Tours: *The Illusionists*, *Blithe Spirit*. Broadway: *The Illusionists*, *Bravo Bernstein*, *Gotham Glory*; as well as on design teams for *Primo*, *The Woman in White*, *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. Regional: Center Theatre Group, Pasadena Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, The 5th Avenue Theatre, Sacramento Music Circus, McCoy Rigby Entertainment, Reprise!, Ensemble Theatre Company, Laguna Playhouse, Virginia Stage Company, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. He is the principal Designer for USA International Ballet Competitions and became the Youngest member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 and serves as Vice-Chair to the executive board. [jaslighting.com](http://jaslighting.com)

**JEFF GARDNER (SOUND DESIGNER):**

At ANTAEUS: *The Winter's Tale*, *SHE*, *The Tempest*, *Eight Nights*, *The Abuelas*, *Native Son*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *The Little Foxes*, *The Hothouse*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Top Girls*, *Picnic*, *Wedding Band*, *The Crucible*, *The Seagull*. Other Theaters: Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Williamstown Theatre

Festival, Cleveland Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Baltimore Center Stage, The Shakespeare Theatre (DC), Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Mark Taper Forum, Geffen Playhouse, The Kirk Douglas Theatre, The Wallis Annenberg Center, Pasadena Playhouse, A Noise Within, Boston Court Pasadena, Circle X Theatre, Echo Theater, IAMA Theatre, Rogue Machine, Skylight Theatre. Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation Awards, Stage Raw and LA Drama Critics Circle Award Winner. Jeff can be seen at L.A. Theatre Works where he regularly performs live sound effects. [jeffthomasgardner.net](http://jeffthomasgardner.net)

**AARON LYONS (PROPS DESIGNER):** does theater. Lots of it. As an actor, director, designer, producer, stage manager, technical director, and crew member, he has over 250 credits on his National and International resumes. [aaronlyons.net](http://aaronlyons.net)

**CARLY DW BONES (INTIMACY DIRECTOR):** Intimacy at ANTAEUS: *Everybody, Love & Information*. Intimacy at other local Theaters: A Noise Within, Boston Court, Coeurage, Coin & Ghost, East West Players, EST LA, Ghost Road, Greenway Court, Hero Theatre, IAMA, Moving Arts, The Road, Skylight, Son of Semele, StarKid, Theatre 40. Carly is a theater director, intimacy director/ coordinator, sex educator, facilitator and thespomancer (theater witch) who creates at the intersections of performance, ritual, sexuality, gender, community and trauma-sensitivity. They also teach and stage intimacy for local university theater programs: Cal Lutheran University, CSULA, CSULB,

Emerson LA, Occidental College, UCLA, UCR, USC, Pomona College. Carly created and directed at the feminist theatre ensemble, The Illyrian Players, from 2011-2019. She has also directed at: Coin & Ghost, The Echo, EST LA, Inkwell Theater, The Road, Rogue Artists Ensemble, The Vagrancy. Connect with Carly: [carlydwbones@gmail.com](mailto:carlydwbones@gmail.com) or [thespomancer.com](http://thespomancer.com)

### **JEAN MICHELLE SAYEG**

**(CHOREOGRAPHER):** Classically trained with San Francisco Ballet, her multifaceted career includes performing internationally in Taiwan with State Street Ballet & nationally with Smuin Ballet. Jean Michelle has toured with National companies of CATS (Victoria), Camelot (Lady Sybil) and Marie de la Palme's *Le Couer Illumine*. Other credits include productions at: Lincoln Center, Hollywood Bowl and LA Opera. Choreography: *Tie Up & Cover* (Smuin Ballet), *As the World Goes Round* (Interplayer's Theatre), *Picnic* (ANTAEUS), *Dancing Lessons*, *Emma & Tenderly* (Ensemble Theatre Company), *What A Pair* (Saban Theatre). B.F.A. St. Mary's College of California and Pilates Certified (BASI), faculty at the Colburn School; SoCal Arts. Awards: Music Center Spotlight, Lester Horton, Palm Desert Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival, Jerry Herman Award Best Choreography. Sayeg is a proud member of Actors Equity, SAG-AFTRA and AGMA. [jeanmichellesayeg.com](http://jeanmichellesayeg.com)

### **ELLEN MANDEL (COMPOSER):**

has written music for over 90 plays. At ANTAEUS: music for *Top Girls* (Scenic Award), *Picnic*, *The Little Foxes*, and

the theme music for all three seasons of *The Zip Code Plays*. Best Music nominations: *Medea*, *Charley's Aunt* and *Voysey Inheritance*, music for *Death of a Salesman*, Drama Desk best revival nom. Other Theaters: Mint, Jean Cocteau Rep (Resident Composer), Pearl, Asolo, Phoenix Theatre Ensemble (Resident Composer), Arkansas Rep, Tennessee Rep, Peterborough Players and others. Ellen has also composed many art songs to texts by E.E. Cummings, Seamus Heaney, WB Yeats, Thomas Hardy, Charlotte Mew, and more. New York Times raves: "As always, a major asset to the Cocteau production is Ellen Mandel's original music" and "Mandel's songs are ardent and spiky...refreshingly organic." [ellenmandel.com/music](http://ellenmandel.com/music)

**TALYA CAMRAS (PRODUCTION**

**STAGE MANAGER):** At ANTAEUS: *The Tempest*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Abuelas*. Elsewhere: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (A Noise Within); *Ragtime* (5-Star Theatricals); *RENT* (Coerage Ensemble); *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Richard II* (Kingsmen Shakespeare Company); *Mamma Mia!*, *Rock of Ages*, *SpongeBob The Musical*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Milken); *Uncovered*, *Family Matters*, *The Rest is History*, *True Colors* (The Braid); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theatricum Botanicum). Talya is thrilled to be a part of this amazing team!

**MAX TEL (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR):**

At ANTAEUS: House Manager for *The Tempest*, *SHE*, *The Winter's Tale*. Production Assistant for *The Sound Inside* at Pasadena Playhouse. Stage Technician at Boston Court Pasadena, Pasadena City College, and Greenway

Court Theater. Stage Manager for *Roe* and *Oedipus at Colonus* at Occidental College, *Rise* at Company of Angels, and Group Labs Fest 2023 at Hudson Theater. Director, producer, and writer of short film *Arbor*, releasing in late 2024.

**ADAM MEYER (TECHNICAL**

**DIRECTOR):** Adam has been hanging around the ANTAEUS buildings since 2004. He took over as Production Manager in 2011 and oversaw every production prior to his departure in 2022. Now, he's BACK! Adam is also a company member and has acted in numerous plays and readings at ANTAEUS. He credits a lot of his success to this warm and loving theater company. But he would be nothing without the support and love from his family, wife Rebecca, and two sons, Leo and Golden.

**CASEY COLLASO (ASSISTANT**

**STAGE MANAGER):** Casey is thrilled to join another Antaeus production. Her previous work at Antaeus includes *The Winter's Tale* (Assistant Stage Manager) and Audience and Donor Relations Intern in 2022. She earned her B.A. in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Directing at California State University, Fullerton. Other credits: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Assistant Director), *Policarpa: Apocalypse Sur Amerikka* (Assistant Director), *Within Reach* (Assistant Stage Manager).



Peter Mendoza, Peter Van Norden, and Anja Racić in *The Tempest* (2023),  
Photo by Frank Ishman

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As a nonprofit organization, we rely on contributions for the majority of our income. Everything we do is made possible by the extraordinary generosity of this community! Donations help us produce award-winning productions; create paying jobs for artists; offer arts education programs and accessible tickets to our local community; support the development of exciting new plays; and so much more.

*Join our community of supporters today! If you'd like to make a pledge, arrange a recurring gift, or inform us about a planned gift, please contact Sophie Meincke, Senior Associate, Philanthropy & Communications at [sophie@antaeus.org](mailto:sophie@antaeus.org) or 818.506.5436.*

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# PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

The Producer's Circle ensures we are never limited in our artistic pursuits on our stage. This group believes in sustained excellence and allows Antaeus to produce plays no matter the cast size or production needs.

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# DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

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John Apicella+  
Amy Borgman &  
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