### **Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point exists upon land inhabited by the original indigenous people of this area, including the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and the many other nations and groups that predate colonial borders.

We acknowledge that with colonization Native American people have been dispossessed of their lands and irreparably changed by the actions of individuals and institutions. We acknowledge our responsibility to understand and respond to those actions. In partnership with the Native American Center, we commit to working together to honor the past, be intentional in the present, and to build our future with truth.

## Welcome to the Department of Theatre & Dance 2024-2025 Season!

The UWSP Department of Theatre & Dance is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the National Association of Schools of Dance.

# 2024-2025 Theatre & Dance Faculty & Staff

Amy Beversdorf

Associate Lecturer, Dance

Andrew Brackett

Assistant Professor, Theatre

**Emily Bustamante** 

Assistant Professor, Theatre BFA Design and Technology Program Coordinator

Dana Dancho

Assistant Professor, Theatre

Michael Estanich

Professor, Dance
Department of Theatre & Dance Chair

Mark Hanson

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Sonia Grimsled

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Lecturer, Theatre
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# The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Department of Theatre & Dance Presents

# DANSTAGE 2025

### Featuring Choreography by:

Michael Estanich\*, Pamela Luedtke\*, Sarah Olson\*, and Jeffrey Peterson\*\*

### **Danstage Director's Note**

Welcome to Danstage 2025! This is a special time in the dance program as it offers students and faculty the time and space to engage together in creative research and scholarship. To be in the studio this way is refreshing for Sarah, Pamela, our guest artist Jeffrey Peterson, and me and valuable for the dancers' developing artistry.

The dance program is lucky to have Pamela Luedtke, long time Lecturer, sharing another sensitive work with the dancers and you. Her "Echoes of Self" is stunning in its simplicity and exacting in its rigor. It is accompanied by Johann Sebastian Bach's emotionally rich Goldberg Variations and marvelously performed live by pianist Nell Buchman. What a gift the dancers have had learning and understanding how to respond to and share space with live music.

Our guest artist, Jeffrey Peterson, has restaged one of the most powerful examples of how time, space, energy, and the body are used to stir deep emotion within us. When I saw the work a year ago, I knew immediately that our dancers needed to perform this piece — that they could meet the demands of the virtuosity of expression and technique that "Side By Side" requires. And I was not wrong! These sixteen dancers are quite frankly glorious. I am certain you will be overcome with feelings as you watch them navigate the intricacies of Jeffrey's masterful spatial design to create community on stage.

My new work, "Our House Upended" is a tale of discovery, possibility, and inner fortitude. It's non-linear series of vignettes weave a narrative that is both melancholically resolute and wistfully hopeful. It's a special dance that took the dancers and I a long time to discover. If you give the work a chance to wash over you, I think you'll find a bit of yourself in there.

Finally, my dear colleague Sarah Olson demonstrates her versatility and range with two new works. Given the depth of technical skill in the dance program currently, Sarah wanted to celebrate spring (and ballet!) with a new interpretation of Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers" from his magical and enchanting Nutcracker score. "Spring Blossoms" will have you smiling with delight as you enjoy beautiful dancing to beautiful music. Her newest contemporary work "Searching For A Sliver Of Light" builds community as layers of energy and connection emanate from within and powerfully expand outward.

### **Danstage Director's Note, continued**

It's prescient and timely and reminds us that hope is there even in the darkest of times. This will be Sarah's last Danstage at UWSP as she gathers her own inner hopes to begin a new journey at Towson University next year. Sarah's contributions to the UWSP Dance Program will have lasting impacts and are deeply felt by her colleagues and the dancers. I'm grateful for her excellent teaching and beautiful artistry these past five years.

This year's concert celebrates the dynamism, expressivity, and athleticism of the human body. In these five wildly different works, the dancers are asked to commit wholeheartedly in body, mind, and spirit. They meet the demands of each work with remarkable grace, technical skills, and personal investment. I am so proud of these young artists and their deep love for this artform. The creative process is not easy; collectively we, as choreographers and dancers, must give way to the circuitous and oftentimes messy journey as the dance reveals itself to us. We must be vulnerable with each other, trust each other, and rely on each other — and there is nothing more special than when these moments align, and true beauty is discovered and created. There is mesmerizing beauty and artistic transcendence in their performances, and I am sure you will be as awed as I have been this past week watching each work grow and deepen and refine.

Sarah, Pamela, Jeffrey, and I are grateful to be part of their artistic development and hope you enjoy the rich spoils of their hard work. Thank you for joining us, for bearing witness to the creative process, and for supporting the arts in our community.

Michael Estanich Professor of Dance Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance

Michael

### **Echoes of Self**

Choreographer	Pamela Luedtke*, Katelyn Altmann**
Dancers	Erin Clementich, Madelyn Coles, Amber Cronce,
	Aubree Leitermann, Graceanne Rendernick, Elyse Ulmen
	Understudy: Marcella Schneider
Stage Manager.	Paul Been
<b>Costume Design</b>	erNessa Grant
Lighting Designe	er
Text	Echoes of Self by Stana Luedtke
Music	<i>Goldberg Variations</i> (Aria da capo, Variation #18, #21,
	#22, #25 and #27) by Johann Sebastian Bach
Pianist	Nell Buchman**

Drawn to (Aria part 1)

Quiet corners, found inward (#18)

A fragile echo (#21)

Within reflection of (#22)

Years, passing as seconds (#25)

Until the self surfaces (#28)

As One (Aria part 2)

### **Program Note:**

Echoes of Self is a restaging of an original collaborative project between Katelyn Altmann and myself performed at the 2024 Waupaca Bach Festival. Each section is a single line of text from a poem written by my daughter Stana Luedtke.

Sincere gratitude to Nell Buchman for inviting dance to be part of her artistic vision in performing the *Goldberg Variations* during the Waupaca Bach Festival several years ago and to Susan Gingrasso for being our Language of Dance (LOD) Movement Coach during the our rehearsal process.

### **Echoes of Self**

#### **Guest Artists**

**Nell Jorgensen Buchman** (pianist) teaches piano, group piano, and early childhood music at the Lawrence Community Music School and Lawrence University. In addition to teaching, she accompanies and manages LCMS girl choirs from grades 3-9 and is the pianist at Emmanuel Methodist Church in Appleton. Ms. Buchman has performed at The biennial Waupaca Bach Festival where she has enjoyed collaborating with Pamela Luedtke, Jeannie Hill and Katelyn Altmann, Point Dance Ensemble, Lawrence University, the Winchester Academy, Neenah Library, UWSP, Pine Mountain Music Festival, Frankly Music Chamber Series and with the Raleigh Symphony, Cimarron Opera Company and Brevard Music Center Orchestra among others. She has been a guest on public radio and has performed at music conventions such as MTNA and MENC.

**Katelyn Altmann** (co-choreographer) is a movement-based artist, choreographer, educator, and improviser based in Milwaukee, WI. She holds a BFA in Contemporary Dance Performance and Choreography from UW-Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts, where she graduated magna cum laude. Katelyn has served on faculty for the UW-Milwaukee Department of Dance and has guest taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

She holds an active presence in Milwaukee's arts scene, performing and creating work with a wide range of local and national artists. Her choreographic work has been presented in cities including Milwaukee, Chicago, and New York. Katelyn's piece "soft ground, stiff shoulder" was featured at the American College Dance Association's North Central Conference, and in 2019, she collaborated with Joe Goode on a dance film supported by the National Endowment of the Arts. Katelyn has furthered her dance training through various intensives, including the Milwaukee Ballet, Point Park, GALLIM and Bates Dance Festival. She also received two Undergraduate Research Fellowships at UW-Milwaukee focused on movement research. Katelyn has performed with Danceworks Performance MKE, Li Chiao Ping Dance, Wild Space Dance Company, Milwaukee Opera Theater and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

### Looking for a Sliver of Light

	, ,
Choreographer	Sarah Olson*
Dancers	Ariel Birkel, Clara Douglas, Katelyn Geier,
	Kaitlin Kopp Winowiski, Karissa Lambert, Ellie McGillivray,
	Grace Meyer, Aiden Palma, Josiah Stevens,
	Maddie Wallace, Toni Wuest
	Understudy: Keira Slattery
Stage Manager	Zach Bruhn
<b>Costume Design</b>	erEmily Bustamante*
Lighting Designe	rZach Bruhn
Music"Ex	ercise in Colour" by CoH featuring Ann Demeulemeester;
	"Change Your Perspective" by Travis Lake

#### **Program Note:**

Even in the darkest times, there is always light. This work explores how we can choose to see the light, both in ourselves and in others, and how that can guide us to a brighter future. Change is always possible, even when we can't see the way through yet.

### Spring Blossoms

Choreographer	Sarah Olson*
Dancers	Jenny Beck, Elle Frana, Scarlett Hildebrand,
	Renee McSherry, Pauline Nikolov, Hannah Petersen,
	Veronica Petrach, Natalie Shrock,
	Understudy: Magdalene Swift
Stage Manager	Diana Gabriel
Costume Designer	Emily Bustamante*
Lighting Designer	Diana Gabriel
Music	"Waltz of the Flowers" by P.I. Tchaikovsky,
	performed by Zsuzsa Bálint

### **Program Note:**

This work is a love letter to Tchaikovsky's iconic score for The Nutcracker. Normally sequestered to the winter months, I wanted to celebrate the beauty of Waltz of the Flowers and the promise of Spring that it brings.

<sup>&</sup>quot;If you are seeking light, let yourself be the mirror." - Rumi

### 15-minute Intermission

### **Our House Upended**

Choreographer	Michael Estanich* with the dancers
Dancers	Isabel Bauer, Erin Clementich, Sarah Dickinson,
	Emma Eckelberg, Emily Hoeppner, Jordan Linton,
	Ellie McGillivray, Ellie Meyer, Olivia Rosenberg,
	Marcella Schneider, Ike Smith, Averi Yezek
Stage Manager	Paul Been
Costume Designer	Emily Bustamante*
Lighting Designer	Paul Been
Scenic Designer	Mattie Ruona
Music"Cows Clar	nking Bells and Chickens Roaming Freely" by Uh Uh
	"The Times They Are A-Changin'"by Bob Dylan
	"Slow Flow" by Ben Sollee
	"body" by Gia Margaret
	"Migratory Birds" by Western Skies Motel
	"Kuud kuulama" by Maarja Nuut
	"stop for a minute" by hurricane tortilla
	"The Quiet At Night" by Mary Lattimore
"Sans f	frayeur dans ce bois" by Marc-Antoine Charpentier
"Two Conce	ert Etudes, part 1 – Waldesrauschen" by Franz Liszt
	"Golden Days" by Chris Brain

### Side By Side

Choreographer	Jeffrey Peterson**
DancersEri	in Clementich, Sarah Dickinson, Scarlett Hildebrand,
Rile	y Johnson, McKenna Johnston, Aubree Leitermann,
Jordar	Linton, Renee McSherry, Ellie Meyer, Grace Meyer,
Pa	auline Nikolov, Aiden Palma, Graceanne Rendernick,
	Leah Scherer, Josiah Stevens, Toni Wuest
	Understudies: Bella Jaeger and Karissa Lambert
Stage Manager	Diana Gabriel
Costume Designer	Rebecca Bernstein,
	orchestrated by Emily Bustamante*
Lighting Designer	Andrew Brackett*,
	based off of an original design by Susan Hamburger
Music	

**Jeffrey Peterson**Dubbed "poetic precision" and "impressive" by the Minneapolis Star-Tribune and "moving and heart racingly joyous" by the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Jeffrey Peterson has been crafting choreography for over 25 years. Peterson's work is driven by the personal and political, founded upon the spatial complexity and precision of drum corps, the interior world of somatics, the bending of jazz and modern dance, and an eclectic approach to composition. Peterson aims to create integrative, mindbody-spirit experiences for performers and audiences alike.

Peterson's work has twice been selected for gala concerts at American College Dance Association Conferences. "Side By Side" (2013) as performed by students from St. Olaf College was selected to close the 24 North Central Regional conference gala. He has been commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, Movement Research at Judson Church, Dixon Place, Rhythmically Speaking, and numerous dance programs in Higher Education. His choreography has appeared in the Dancenow/NYC festival at Joe's Pub and Joyce SOHO, Moving Men at Dixon Place (NY), The Rivers Merge Dance Festival (PA), as well as at The Bryant Lake Bowl, Kinetic Kitchen, The Rabbit Show, and several Minnesota Fringe Festivals.

Peterson holds a Certification in Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis (L/BMA) from Integrated Movement Studies, an MFA in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and a BFA in dance from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Professional accolades include performing with the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, JAZZDANCE by Danny Buraczeski, ARENA Dances by Mathew Janczewski, Stephan Koplowitz's Grand Step Project, Clare Byrne Dance, DELiRiOUS Dance/Edisa Weeks, The Minnesota Opera, and for Melissa Rolnick, among others.

Peterson is the Program Director and Assistant Professor of Dance at Winona State University in Winona, MN.

### **Danstage 2025 Production Team**

•	1025 Production realin
Danstage Director	Michael Estanich*
Stage Managers	Paul Been, Zach Bruhn, Diana Gabriel
Lighting Designers	Andrew Brackett*, Paul Been, Zach Bruhn, Diana Gabriel
Costume Designers	Emily Bustamante*, Nessa Grant
Set Designer	Mattie Ruona
Sound Engineer	Paul Been
Deck Crew	Lucy Groeler, Justin Lewis, Gloria Olson, Deirdra Pilgrim, Iz Walsh
Wardrobe CrewLydi	a Flanigan, Quarrii McGee, Hailey Mueller, Nora Perugini, Noah Rass
2024-25 Se	ason Production Staff
Costume/Hair/Makeup Design	MentorEmily Bustamante*
Costume Shop Manager	CeCe Sickler*
Costume Shop Assistants	Maxine Danni, Cali Grant,
	Nessa Grant, Steph Hogan, Sophie Pitsch,
Mattie Ruona	a, Aidan Sternberg, Lenna Magdeline Wren
Light/Sound Shop Mentor	Andrew Brackett*
Light/Sound Shop Assistants	Ace Ahlstrom, Zach Bruhn
Scenic/Paint/Props Mentor &	Prop Shop ManagerEmily Lotz*
Paint/Props Shop Assistants	Hayden Othmer, Anna Nowatzki,
	Mattie Ruona, Maikla Wilson
Technical Director & Scene Sho	op ManagerAnn Warren*
Scene Shop Assistants	Serena Alexander, Paul Been,
	Zach Bruhn, Barrett Buck, Bastien Howard
House Manager	Erin Bohn
Social Media Marketing	Micah Friedman, Jordan Linton
Student Office Assistants	Erin Clementich,
	Lenna Magdeline Wren, Stephanie Skemp

\*UWSP Faculty/Staff

- **Bauer, Isabel** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance and Chemistry double major from Deforest, WI.
- **Beck, Jenny** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance and Arts Management double major from Roscoe, IL. Recipient of the First-year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance and the Elizabeth Bukolt Ballet Scholarship..
- **Been, Paul** (Stage Manager/Lighting Designer/Sound Engineer, He/They) Senior BFA Theatre Design & Technology major focusing in sound design from Kimberly, WI.
- **Birkel, Ariel** (Dancer, She/Her) Senior Dance and Psychology double major from Rubicon, WI. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance and the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship.
- **Bruhn, Zach** (Stage Manager/Lighting Designer, They/Them) First-year Theatre Design and Technology and Arts Management double major and Psychology minor from Hartland, WI. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Design and Technology.
- **Clementich, Erin** (Dancer, She/Her) Senior Dance major and Arts Management minor from Devils Lake, ND. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship.
- **Coles, Madelyn** (*Dancer, She/They*) Senior Professional Communication major and Dance minor from Cary, IL.
- **Cronce, Amber** (Dancer, She/Her) Senior Dance major from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the James and Linda Martin Moore Dance Award and The Wall Scholarship.
- **Dickinson, Sarah** (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Dance and Arts Management double major from Stratford, WI. Recipient of the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship, the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship, and The Wall Scholarship.
- **Douglas, Clara** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance and Arts Management double major from Ashland, WI. Recipient of the Destination Wisconsin Scholarship.
- **Eckelberg, Emma** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance major and Exercise Perfomance and Buisness minor from Marshfield, WI. Recipient of The Wall Scholarship.

- **Gabriel, Diana** (Stage Manager/Lighting Designer, She/her) Sophomore Theatre Design & Technology major from Rome, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl First Arts Award in Design & Technology.
- **Geier, Katelyn** (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Graphic Design major and Dance minor from Loyal, WI. Recipient of the Delta Dental of WI Art Scholarship and the Arts Bash Scholarship.
- **Grant, Nessa** (Costume Designer, She/Her) Sophomore Theatre Design & Technology major.
- **Frana, Elle** (Dancer, She/They) First-year Dance major from Oronoco, MN. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.
- **Hildebrand, Scarlett** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance major from Milwaukee, WI.
- **Hoeppner, Emily** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre and Dance double major from De Pere, WI. Recipient of the First Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre.
- **Jaeger, Bella** (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Dance major and Creative Writing minor from Wausau, WI.
- **Johnson, Riley** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance major from Manitowoc, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship.
- Johnston, McKenna (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance and Arts Management double major from Mount Horeb, WI. Recipient of the First Year Dance Scholarship and the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship.
- **Kopp Winowiski, Kaitlin** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Super Senior Dance and Business Administration double major and Accounting minor from Wausau, WI.
- **Lambert, Karissa** (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Dance major and Arts Management minor from Green Bay, WI.
- **Leitermann, Aubree** (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Dance major and Exercise Perfomance minor from Kimberly, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship and the Elizabeth Bukolt Ballet Scholarship.
- **Meyer, Ellie** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance major from Marshfield, WI.

- **Linton, Jordan** (Dancer, He/Him) Senior BFA Musical Theatre and Dance double major from Daytona Beach, FL. Recipient of the Arlen and Florence West Scholarship, the After the Flags Scholarship, and the Baruch/Bridgeman Outstanding Player Award.
- **McGillivray, Ellie** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance major and Arts Managment minor from Willmar, MN. Recipient of the James and Linda Moore Dance Scholarship.
- McSherry, Renee (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Biology major and Dance minor with a Certificate in Environmental Education from St. Louis Park, MN. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship, the Elizabeth Bukolt Ballet Scholarship, and the Presidential Gold Scholarship.
- **Meyer, Grace** (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Early Childhood Education major and Dance minor from Caledonia, MN. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship and the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship.
- **Nikolov, Pauline** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance major and Business Administration minor from Lakeville, MN. Recipient of the Theatre and Dance Talent Award Scholarship, the After the Flags Scholarship in Dance, and the School District Scholarship.
- **Palma, Aiden** (Dancer, He/Him) First-year Dance and Computing Information Systems double major from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the Theatre and Dance Talent Award Scholarship.
- **Petersen, Hannah** (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Health Science and Wellness major and Dance minor from Crystal Lake, IL. Recipient of the Invest in Your Purpose Scholarship, the Destination Wisconsin Scholarship, the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship, and the CPS Deans Award Scholarship.
- Petrach, Veronica (Dancer, She/They) Junior Environmental Education major and Dance minor from Racine, WI. Recipient of the John Wenger Forestry and Water Conservation Scholarship, the Rachel Rambo International Scholarship and the Jack and Marion Wilson Achievement Award.
- **Rendernick, Graceanne** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance and Arts Management double major and Art minor from Rochester, MN. Recipient of the First-year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.
- **Rosenberg, Olivia** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance and Musical Theatre double major from Lake Mills, WI.

- **Ruona, Mattie** (Scenic Deisgner, She/Her) Junior Theatre Design & Technology major from Sheboygan, WI.
- Scherer, Leah (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Chemistry major and Dance minor from Loyal, WI. Recipient of the Pointers Promsie Scholaship, the Presidential Purple Scholarship, the Trytten Chemistry Scholarship, and the Melvin R. Laird Youth Leadership Scholarship.
- **Schneider, Marcella Rose** (Dancer, They/Them) Junior Dance major and Drama minor from Neenah, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Dance Scholarship and the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award.
- **Shrock, Natalie** (Dancer, She/Her) Junior Dance major with minors in Arts Management and Art from Rhinelander, WI. Recipient of the Presidential Purple Scholarship, the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship, the First-year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance, and the Invest in Your Purpose Scholarship.
- **Slattery, Keira** (Dancer, She/Her) First-year Dance and Marketing double major from Waupun, WI.
- **Smith, Ike** (Lighting Designer, He/Him) Senior Dance and Drama double major from Madison, WI. Recipient of the James and Linda Martin Moore Dance Scholarship and the Peet-Faust Drama Scholarship.
- **Stevens, Josiah** (*Dancer, He/Him*) Junior Dance major from Reedsburg, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship.
- **Swift, Maggi** (Dancer, She/Her) First-year Dance major and Business minor from Campbellsport, WI. Recipient of the Theatre and Dance Talent Award Scholarship, the Pointer Promise Scholarship, and the Invest In Your Purpose Scholarship.
- **Ulmen, Elyse** (Dancer, She/Her) First-year Dance major from Madelia, MN.
- **Wallace, Maddie** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance and Fine Arts Major from Elkhorn, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship and the Invest In Your Purpose Scholarship.
- **Wuest, Toni** (Dancer, She/Her) Sophomore Dance and Business Management double major from Apple Valley, MN.
- **Yezek, Averi** (Dancer, She/Her) Senior Dance major from Apple Valley, MN.

### **OUR MISSION**

The mission of the Department of Theatre and Dance is to serve:

- Its majors and minors through curricular offerings and performance/ production activities that heighten intellectual, artistic, cultural, and humane sensitivities.
- The general student population through curricular offerings and stage productions that engender an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and their contribution to the cultural and aesthetic enrichment of life.
- The university community and general central Wisconsin population through the production of quality stage performances.

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