

RS
READING
OPERATIC
SOCIETY
musical theatre

Annie



Welcome from our Chair



It was a Starmaker Theatre Company performance of *Annie* in 1998 that drew me back into the captivating world of theatre. Curtain down, I bumped into a friend who morphed into a persuasive Reading Operatic Society member. The rest, as they say, is history. That's why I offer a poignant and warm welcome to one of the most popular shows on the circuit.

Twenty years on, *Annie* remains as timeless and full of can-do energy as ever, brought to vivid life by our talented group of actors, directed and choreographed by award winning Nick Brannam and musically directed by Josh Robinson with his 10-piece orchestra. They are all enabled by Reading Operatic Society's hugely capable and often under-appreciated production management, back stage crew, front of house team, friends and tireless committee.

The bit that has changed substantially over two decades is the cost of production. Even with tight controls, we will spend nearly £22,000 to ensure a great show here at the Kenton. Not quite 'Daddy' Warbucks territory, but a real challenge. My sincere thanks to all supporters named in this programme. Without their assistance, Reading Operatic Society could not offer amazing performance and back stage opportunities, amateur ticket prices for pro-level experiences and accessible theatre for our hearing impaired and Mencap audience members.

I hope that *Annie* captivates you just as much as it did me. Want to get involved, on stage, behind the scenes or crucially, to offer financial or other support? Then please email – it would be great to hear from you.

Kim Hollamby
Chair
kim@readingops.co.uk





Annie

A small, stylized illustration of a young girl with curly hair, wearing a dark dress with a white collar and a white belt. She is standing with her arms crossed, looking towards the viewer. The background of the entire poster is a faded, sepia-toned image of a city skyline, with the Chrysler Building being a prominent feature on the right side.

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26 - 29 SEPTEMBER 2018
The Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames

Book by
THOMAS MEEHAN

Music by
CHARLES STROUSE

Lyrics by
MARTIN CHARNIN

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin
Presented on Broadway by Mike Nichols

Produced by Irwin Meyer, Stephen R. Friedman, Lewis Allen, Alvin Nederlander Associates Inc,
The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Icarus Productions.

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ANNIE. An amateur production presented by arrangement
with Music Theatre International (Europe)

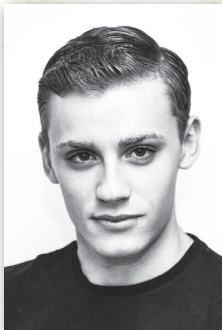
All authorised performance materials are also supplied
by MTI Europe. www.MTIShows.co.uk

Patrons are requested not to smoke in the theatre, and to switch off mobile telephones, pagers and alarm watches. Photography, video or audio recordings are not permitted.

In accordance with the requirements of the theatre:

- The Public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors and such doors at that time must be left open.
- All gangways, corridors, staircases and external passageways intended for exit shall be kept free from obstruction whether permanent or temporary, and
- Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or sit in any of the other gangways.

PRODUCTION TEAM



NICK BRANNAM ... Director & Choreographer

Nick is thrilled to be working with Reading Operatic Society for his second engagement as director and choreographer for the company. Nick has previously directed and choreographed the society's May 2017 production of *Legally Blonde the Musical* and trod the boards most recently for *Singin' in the Rain* in September 2017. Nick recently graduated from the University of Winchester with a First Class BA (Hons) degree in Performing Arts, not many people are aware that he was assessed on *Legally Blonde* and received a first class rating. Previous shows that Nick has directed include *Sister Act*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*®

all of which have won accolades of excellence from NODA and other awarding bodies. As well as being director and choreographer for *Annie*, on the Saturday performances, Nick will be performing to cover a cast member who has to attend a wedding. Nick would like to thank all the members at Reading Operatic Society for their support in the creation of this classic family favourite in particular, Ryan Stevens and Nicky Jaggar for stepping up and helping creatively as well as performing in the show. He is so thankful to be working along side his friend and colleague Josh Robinson for this production whose vocal training astounds Nick daily. He hopes the cast have enjoyed this experience and hopes that the audiences enjoy his take on the classic; *Annie*.



JOSH ROBINSON Musical Director

Josh is a Musical Director, Choir Director and freelance Voice Specialist. He has immersed himself in the arts world from a young age as both a Performer and solo singer artist. He has performed in some of the most prestigious venues across the U.K. and Europe, these venues include; Winchester Cathedral, Leeds Cathedral, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Theater Schlachthof (Bremen) and has performed on the Main Stage Arena at Vintage Festival, 'Twinwoods', to over 20,000 people in Bedfordshire. Josh recently graduated from The University of Winchester studying a Voice Studies & Performing Arts programme, and has

since thrown himself in to the voice world, working alongside expert teachers in their field. This is Josh's third experience working as a Musical Director. His last two shows; *Anything Goes* and *Sister Act* working alongside Director, Nick Brannam, were award-winning. Josh would like to thank Nick for not only being a wonderful Director (who's sheer determination for high standards inspires him) but for also being a dear friend. Josh would also like to thank Trevor Defferd for steering him in the right direction as a Musical Director and to the whole cast for their utmost hard work. He is truly grateful for the opportunity and to talented cast of Reading Operatic Society.

THE CAST



ELLA NEWBOROUGH.....Annie

Ella (age 11) has been performing since the age of 2 when her parents took her to see *Mamma Mia the Musical* in the West End, which then became an obsession! Her first stage role was at the tender age of 5 where she played the role of Gretl (*The Sound of Music*) at The Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke alongside her mum, Laura as Maria! Ella has since played principal roles in *Matilda* and *Seussical The Musical Junior* but the leading role of *Annie* is by far her biggest challenge yet!



ROB WILSON..... Oliver 'Daddy' Warbucks

Rob is relishing the opportunity to bring the character of Oliver Warbucks to life in his first show with ROS.

Rob has found ROS to be most welcoming and would encourage anyone thinking of joining to take the plunge! Involved in Theatre 30 years ago at college and university, it has been a hobby ever since. Rob met his wife Katy, through a theatre group, and they now have 3 children. As a Daddy with two daughters, Rob is getting well used to being wrapped around a little finger!



LAURA NEWBOROUGH..... Grace Farrell

This is Laura's second show with ROS having played the role of Elle Woods (*Legally Blonde The Musical*) last year. Other previous roles include Mary in (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), Maria (*The Sound of Music*), Audrey (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Glinda (*The Wizard of Oz*) and Miss Adelaide (*Guys & Dolls*). Having played the role of Annie at the age of 14, Laura is thrilled to be taking on the role of Grace Farrell, alongside her daughter Ella (as Annie) and Sophia (as July) - a real family affair! Much to Ella's annoyance, Laura still remembers Annie's lines!



ANNA McCORMACK..... Miss Agatha Hannigan

During a life-long career in am-dram, Anna has been a founder member of the Tripoli Players in Libya, performed at the Edinburgh Fringe seven times and played numerous leading roles, mostly with EBOS (East Berkshire Operatic Society). Some of her favourites are Dolly (*Hello Dolly!*), Kate (*Kiss Me, Kate*), Adelaide (*Guys and Dolls*), Maisie (*The Boyfriend*) and M'Lynn (*Steel Magnolias*). She also enjoyed playing Anna (*The King and I*), recreating a role played by her mother in her native Dundee thirty years previously.



RYAN STEVENS *Daniel 'Rooster' Hannigan*

Ryan is thrilled to be playing the role of Rooster, described as a 'no-good, sleazy, slick con-man'. He was last on stage with us as Don Lockwood (*Singin' in the Rain*). Previous roles with ROS are Eddie Souther (*Sister Act*) and Emmett Forrest (*Legally Blonde The Musical*). Other roles include Billy Lawlor (*42nd Street*), Bobby Child (*Crazy for You*) and Dr Henry Jekyll/Mr Hyde (*Jekyll and Hyde*). When not treading the boards he can be found behind the scenes as Membership Secretary and Brand manager/marketing. www.stevens-signage.co.uk



NICOLA MORRIN *Lily St. Regis*

Nicola is delighted to be back at The Kenton Theatre with ROS. Previous favourite roles include: Mother Superior in *Sister Act*, Velma Von Tussle in *Hairspray*, Angel (*Best Little Whore House In Texas*), Nancy (*Oliver!*), Mabel (*Mack and Mabel*), Polly (*The Boyfriend*), Cinderella (*Slipper and the Rose*), Juliet (*Romeo & Juliet*), Audrey (*Little Shop of Horrors*), The Witch (*Into the Woods*). Nicola has had great fun playing the part of Lily, her own 6 year old Lilly is very excited to be sharing a name with mummy this week.



RAY HIGGS *President Roosevelt*

Ray has played Julian Marsh (*42nd Street*), King Arthur (*Camelot*), Scrooge (*Scrooge the Musical*), Zach (*A Chorus Line*), Geoffrey (*Stepping Out*), Higgins (*My Fair Lady*), Curly and Jud (*Oklahoma!*), Emile (*South Pacific*), Molokov (*Chess*), The Pirate King (*Pirates of Penzance*), Captain Corcoran (*HMS Pinafore*), Fred/Petruchio (*Kiss Me, Kate*). Fresh from a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe playing a corpse in a wheelchair in *Lucky Stiff* Ray is very happy to be joining ROS for this production of *Annie*!



CHRIS REDDINGTON *Bert Healy*

Chris has recently performed as Annas (*Jesus Christ Superstar*) - Progress Theatre and Jamie - part of Doolittle's cockney quartet in our last production of *My Fair Lady*. Chris has been a regular member of local Reading choirs, including the Witt Morgan Chorus. Music is Chris' passion, having learnt the piano and attempted the violin (if you heard his violin playing, you'd likely want him to stick to singing instead). He hopes that you enjoy the show, just as much as we have enjoyed bringing it all together!

CAST

(in order of appearance)

David Bennett	ANDREW JOHNSON
Margret Bennett	NATASHA MAXWORTHY
Annie	ELLA NEWBOROUGH
Molly	SOPHIE FARMER
Pepper	FAITH WOOD-BLAGROVE
Duffy	SIENNA EDEN
July	SOPHIA NEWBOROUGH
Tessie	KATIE MULLIGAN
Kate	FLORENCE WOOD-BLAGROVE
Miss Agatha Hannigan	ANNA McCORMACK
Mr Bundles	RYAN STEVENS
Apple Seller	ANDREW JOHNSON
Dog Catcher	CHRIS REDDINGTON/NICK BRANNAM (Sat)
Asst. Dog Catcher	NATASHA MAXWORTHY
Sandy	GABRIEL STOCKWELL
Lt. Ward	RAY HIGGS
Sophie	NICKY JAGGAR
Grace Farrell	LAURA NEWBOROUGH
Drake	COLIN WEBB
Mrs. Greer	GEMMA DIDCOCK
Mrs. Pugh	SAMANTHA PRIOR
Cecille	JENNIE DICK
Annette	DELUN JONES
Oliver Warbucks	ROB WILSON
Star-to-be	NICKY JAGGAR
Daniel 'Rooster' Hannigan	RYAN STEVENS
Lily St. Regis	NICOLA MORRIN
Bert Healy	CHRIS REDDINGTON/NICK BRANNAM (Sat)
Jimmy Johnson	ANDREW JOHNSON
Freida McCracken	JOHANNA TOOZE
Bonnie Boylan	DELUN JONES
Connie Boylan	KATIE SMITH
Ronnie Boylan	JESSICA WILKINS
President Roosevelt	RAY HIGGS
Howe	GARETH WATKINS
Ickes	COLIN WEBB
Hull	CHRIS REDDINGTON/NICK BRANNAM (Sat)
Morganthau	ANDREW JOHNSON
Perkins	ANGIE GARLAND
Judge Brandeis	GARETH WATKINS

All other roles are played by members of the company.

THE COMPANY



**ANDREW
JOHNSON**



**ANGIE
GARLAND**



**COLIN
WEBB**



**DELUN
JONES**



**FRANCESCA
WATKINS**



**GARETH
WATKINS**



**GEMMA
DIDCOCK**



**IWONA
ZABROCKA**



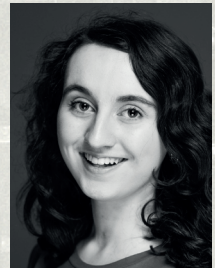
**JENNIE
DICK**



**JESSICA
WILKINS**



**JOHANNA
TOOZE**



**KATIE
SMITH**



**NATASHA
MAXWORTHY**



**NICKY
JAGGAR
(Dance Captain)**



**SAMANTHA
PRIOR**

THE ORPHANS



**SOPHIE
FARMER**



**FLORENCE
WOOD-BLAGROVE**



**KATIE
MULLIGAN**



**FAITH
WOOD-BLAGROVE**



**SOPHIA
NEWBOROUGH**



**SIENNA
EDEN**



**GABRIEL
(c/o STACEY STOCKWELL)**



STACEY STOCKWELL has been signing with ROS for 6 years now. Her shows with us include; *Oliver!*, *Grease*, *Hairspray*, *Sister Act*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Legally Blonde the Musical*.

By day she runs a Disability Awareness training company, Stacey Stockwell Training, which specialises in removing the many misconceptions surrounding disability and gives delegates the tools and confidence to interact with disabled people in the right way. However, her love of BSL coupled with a musical background keeps her busy in the evenings and at weekends

where she spends much of her time learning set lists and scripts then signing for theatres and music festivals. She designs her songs using a mixture of British Sign Language, Sign Supported English, expression and natural body language to get across the meaning of a song, while trying to stay true to its original feel and speed. She signed for EMINEM among a number of other big acts at last year's Reading Festival and just 3 weeks ago signed at the The Hexagon, Reading for the UK touring production of the musical *FAME*.

ROS are committed to making our shows accessible to Deaf and Disabled people and we are delighted that Stacey helps us to do so.

www.staceystockwelltraining.com

ACT ONE

OVERTURE *Orchestra*

SCENE 1 - NEW YORK MUNICIPAL ORPHANAGE

Maybe *Annie*

Hard Knock Life *Orphans*

Hard Knock Life (Reprise)..... *Orphans*

SCENE 2 - ST MARK'S PLACE

Tomorrow *Annie*

SCENE 3 - UNDERNEATH 59th STREET BRIDGE

Hooverville..... *Ensemble*

SCENE 4 - NEW YORK MUNICIPAL ORPHANAGE

Little Girls *Miss Hannigan*

Little Girls (Reprise)..... *Miss Hannigan*

SCENE 5 - WARBUCKS MANSION

I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here..... *Grace, Annie &
Ensemble*

SCENE 6 - STREETS OF N.Y.C.

N.Y.C. *Oliver, Grace, Star to Be & Ensemble*

SCENE 7 - NEW YORK MUNICIPAL ORPHANAGE

Easy Street *Rooster, Miss Hannigan
& Lily St.Regis*

SCENE 8 - WARBUCKS MANSION

You Won't Be An Orphan For Long..... *Grace
& Ensemble*

***THERE WILL BE AN
INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES***

ACT TWO

ENTRA'CTE *Orchestra*

SCENE 1 - N.B.C. RADIO STATION

Maybe (Reprise) *Annie*

You're Never Fully Dressed *Bert Healy
& The Boylan Sisters*

SCENE 2 - NEW YORK MUNICIPAL ORPHANAGE

You're Never Fully Dressed (Children) *Orphans*

Easy Street (Reprise) *Rooster, Hannigan & Lily*

SCENE 3 - CABINET ROOM AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Cabinet Tomorrow *Roosevelt & Cabinet*

SCENE 4 - WARBUCKS MANSION

Something Was Missing *Oliver Warbucks*

SCENE 5 - WARBUCKS MANSION

I Don't Need Anything But You *Oliver, Annie, Grace
& Ensemble*

SCENE 6 - WARBUCKS MANSION

A New Deal For Christmas *Ensemble*

Tommorrow (Reprise)/Bows *Ensemble*

ORCHESTRA

Musical Director *Josh Robinson*

Reeds ANNA O'BRIEN, KELVIN PARKER,

JESSE HARTE, MARTYN HEYWARD

Trumpets MARK COX

KEVIN RANSOM

Trombone GRAEME HOLLINGDALE

Keyboard 1 ADAM BLOSSE

Keyboard 2 PIPPA EDEN

Bass Guitar JIM PULLEN

Drums JULIAN BOWN

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director and Choreographer.....	NICK BRANNAM
Musical Director.....	JOSH ROBINSON
Production Manager.....	DAVID PARSONSON
Stage Manager.....	CAROL HODGKINSON
Assistant Stage Managers.....	JAMES COOK & CHRIS DINSEY
Head Flyman.....	TERRY HODGKINSON
Stage Crew.....	MARTYN BROWN & RHIANNON ROWLANDS
Lighting Designer.....	MICHAEL BRENKLEY
Follow Spot.....	LUCAS WARNER
Sound Design and Operation.....	LOUIS MARTIN
Sound No 2.....	RHI O'KEEFE
Scenic Design.....	NICK BRANNAM
Cloths provided by.....	SCENIC PROJECTS LTD
Additional Set Pieces.....	BASINGSTOKE AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY, STEVE BRANNAM
Projection Design.....	RYAN STEVENS (STEVENS SIGNAGE)
Properties.....	MADDY BLAKE
Wigs provided by.....	BECKY RUNGEN
Hair and Makeup.....	PAM DENNIS
Matron.....	SUSAN COSTELLO
Chaperone.....	CLAIRE FARMER
Costume Co-ordinator.....	JUDITH IFOULD
Costumes.....	BASINGSTOKE AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY, STARMAKER THEATRE COMPANY
Dog Handler.....	KATIE COSTELLO
Front of House.....	KENTON THEATRE VOLUNTEERS & MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
Programme and Poster Design.....	RYAN STEVENS (STEVENS SIGNAGE)
Programme and Poster Printing.....	SOLOPRESS
Production Photographs.....	MICHAEL GRIBBLE
Programme Photographs.....	BRIAN BURDEN (0754 557 8398)

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for their generous support with this production.

Derek and Penny Gilbert, Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society, Kevin Turner, Jean and Barrie Theobald, Earley St. Peter's Church, BBC Radio Berkshire, Marlow FM, Henley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, Starmaker Theatre Company, Dinrino Theatre Services, The Wokingham Paper, Henley Standard, Henley Library, St Mary's Church - Henley, The Henley Players, Ben Garnett, Roger Whitney and The Kenton Theatre Management and Technical Staff.



www.stevens-signage.co.uk



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If you would like to become a member of ROS, whether to perform onstage or behind the scenes, please contact Ryan at membership@readingops.co.uk.

Rehearsals are held each Thursday evening starting at 7:30pm in St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Earley, Reading.



www.ReadingOps.co.uk



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NICK BRANNAM
DIRECTOR | CHOREOGRAPHER

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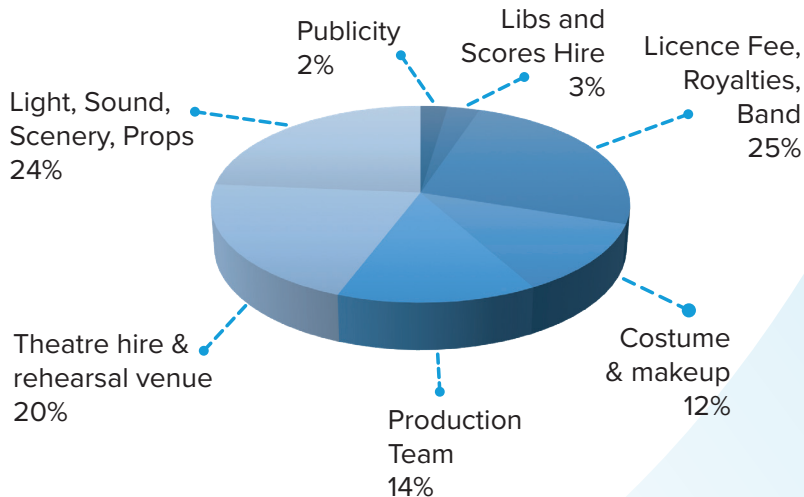
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY BY BECOMING A FRIEND?

If you are interested, please contact the membership Secretary; either by email (membership@readingops.co.uk) Twitter, Facebook or leave your details at the kiosk in the theatre's foyer. Friends benefits include notification of all our activities, priority booking facilities, details of shows and a copy of the Society's newsletter 'Noises Off'.



The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899, is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association has a membership of approximately 2000 amateur theatre groups and approximately 800 individual members staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of venues ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls. Covering a broad spectrum of age ranges NODA member societies meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic, dance or musical, and those involved backstage, front of house or in society administration.

NODA aims:

- To give a shared voice to amateur theatre
- To help societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance.
- To provide leadership and advice to enable amateur theatre to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century
- To achieve these aims NODA is divided into eleven regions, each headed by a regional councillor who sits on the national council (ruling body of the Association), and supported by a network of regional representatives and of cials. These volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association; the amateur theatre groups themselves and their members.
- To provide support and assistance to these volunteers the Association is administered from its office in Peterborough by a knowledgeable and friendly staff who can deal with any enquiry about amateur theatre.

Membership of NODA provides theatre groups and individuals with a wide range of benefits including access to NODA's advice service at national and regional level, as well as representation to government, access to funding agencies, direct access to rights holders and the media as well access to regional and national conferences, workshops and seminars to help share information on best practice.

NODA holds an annual residential Summer School (with bursaries available) offering training from professional tutors in a wide range of both performance and technical courses.

NODA also holds an annual national and regional programme and poster competition to encourage high standards in design. Through its trading arm, NODA Limited members have access to a varied range of products and services including insurance for both societies and individuals, long service awards that recognise the dedication made by individuals to amateur theatre, discounts on plays, vocal scores, libretti and technical books and a range of NODA branded merchandise. As a rights holder NODA Limited has 150 pantomimes by leading authors as well as a growing catalogue of plays and musicals.

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UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Starmaker Theatre Company

IN THE HEIGHTS

3-6 October 2018

Wilde Theatre, Bracknell

Shinfield Players

SPAMALOT

5-6, 11-13 October 2018

Shinfield Players Theatre, Reading

Sainsbury Singers

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

24-27 October 2018

Leighton Park Theatre, Reading

BAOS Limelight

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

25-27 October 2018

Everest Community Academy, Basingstoke

East Berkshire Operatic Society

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

6-10 November 2018

The Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park

Slough, Windsor, Maidenhead Theatre Company

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL

6-10 November 2018

Desborough Theatre, Maidenhead

Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

14-24 November 2018

The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Maidenhead Operatic Society

SPAMALOT

21-24 November 2018

Desborough Theatre, Maidenhead

Woodley Light Operatic Society (WLOS)

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