

# Echo

Supported by QPAC

Australasian  
Dance  
Collective



28-29 Aug  
QPAC



## About the Youth Ensemble

Australasian Dance Collective's Youth Ensemble offers a comprehensive platform to young emerging artists for further extensive dance training, personal development and tangible through-lines to the arts industry.

Led by Riannon McLean, it comprises 30 like-minded 15-18-year-olds who share passions and creative pathways - empowering them to be innovative thinkers and to seek greater learning beyond their established foundation of knowledge.

A key driver of our program is developing each artist as a whole person, enriching their social and communication skills as well as instilling a strong sense of self, in a supportive and nurturing environment. Over a 30-week program and through an array of focused platforms developing technique, choreography, improvisation, task work, performance artistry and creative elements for production, our students gain invaluable skills and further insight into the arts.

## 2020 Youth Ensemble

Left to right / from the back

Charlotte Dunks  
Tamyn Hunt  
Rikia Bell  
Avalon Ormiston  
Makeda Callinicos-Tomlin

Eliza Flowers  
Ryanna Lawson  
Mia Sibley  
Chloe O'Sullivan

Grace Campbell  
Luchel Oegema  
Claire Bryan

Josie Cullen  
Sarah Kaplan  
Trinity Andaloro  
Sarah Bellenger  
Aidra Refausse

Jacinta Bounkeua  
Natalya Alexiou  
Mia Mangano  
Mia Beame  
Esther Gulley

Teagan Potter  
Tilly Thomas  
Finn Armstrong  
Zoe Paterson

Emma-lee Finlay  
Alissa Kouzmenkov  
Brianna Lyddieth  
Indigo Stuart





Photography: David Kelly

## Artistic Director Amy Hollingsworth

In a mercurial world, where we are facing so many challenges, the arts can keep us inspired, hopeful, and connected.

The importance of Australasian Dance Collective's Youth Ensemble has become even clearer this year. We are so proud of this initiative and, even more so, of the 30 talented young artists and their unwavering commitment during this testing time.

It has taken an incredible amount of work and energy to continue the program throughout the lockdown period, but as a collective, we knew it was imperative to keep the Youth Ensemble running - providing a sense of stability and connection as well as an outlet for artistry and emotion.

So, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this significant premiere of **Echo**, the first season back in our beloved QPAC, with a program of two new works and an illustration of these young artists' creative dreams.

I want to extend my warmest thanks and gratitude to our wonderful Youth Ensemble

Director, Riannon McLean. Her creativity, good humour and resilience have shone so brightly through this challenging time.

I also want to applaud the fabulous work of guest choreographer, Michael Smith, and lighting designer, Glenn Hughes, both bringing so much to this experience. And of course none of this production would be possible without the whole ADC team - artistic, administration and production.

Our Youth Ensemble and their 2020 season have been built on the belief of so many wonderful people and we are truly grateful for their visionary support.

Finally, I want to celebrate the extraordinary artists of our Youth Ensemble. These young dancers have achieved so much this year - exhibiting great focus, maturity, and perseverance. My deepest thanks and respect to each and every one of them.

I now have such pleasure inviting you to enjoy this truly joyous moment of being back in the theatre, together.



Photography: David Kelly

## Youth Ensemble Director Riannon McLean

Ever-evolving has become a catchphrase of 2020. When lockdown conditions came into effect in late-March, we hastily made plans for a five-week online program for our Youth Ensemble.

Shifting into an immediate online platform meant reimagining a new program delivery that was functional to the environment, and would keep its strength in communication, connection to creativity and keep exciting challenges in place.

As has been the case this year, things changed. And our five-week plan stretched to 12 weeks and included 24 sessions with 60 working hours online.

But our tenacious students reached far beyond any limitations. I had the great privilege to watch each of them grow as individuals as they continued to come together to inspire, motivate and always set in motion a flurry of creativity.

This determination and sense of community has only strengthened our ensemble and I am immensely proud of their achievements, maturity, adaptability and professionalism in a constantly-changing environment



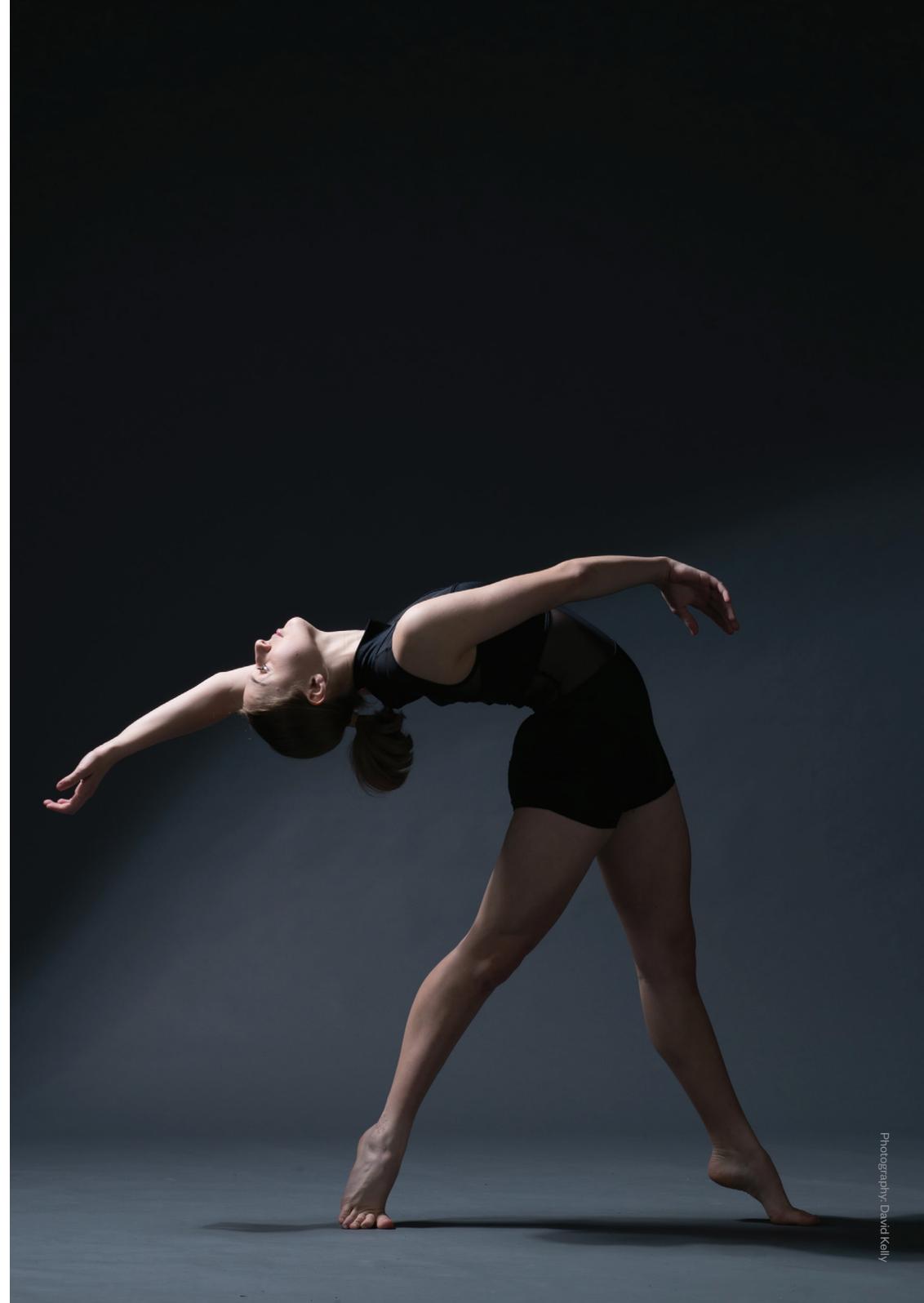
## Chief Executive, QPAC John Kotzas

"Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which in prosperous times would have lain dormant."

These words of the ancient Roman poet Horace are as true today as they were centuries ago as the adversity of the global pandemic has forced artists to find new ways to create and connect.

Australasian Dance Collective's (ADC) **Echo** season is testament to the beauty of imaginative thinking and resourcefulness. It is the remarkable creative outcome of choreographers and young dancers responding to a situation well outside their comfort zone. Learning to work remotely is a situation faced by many of us, but one that presents particular challenges when working within a physical artform.

We could not be happier to welcome ADC back to QPAC as our theatres begin to reemerge from closure. I applaud ADC's Youth Ensemble for facing the challenge of our current environment, for sharing their experiences with us, and for demonstrating the power of art to provide hope in a time of recovery. As always, we are proud to stand alongside ADC to present this season of **Echo** and we look forward to following the promising journey of these young artists.



# The Lifted Light of Being

## Riannon McLean

Without life, we have no light and without breath, we cease to have life. Connected through fragility, necessity and our pure existence, ***The Lifted Light of Being*** explores how each of us uniquely belongs to protect the fate of humanity.



### Creatives

**Choreographer** Riannon McLean

**Lighting Designer** Glenn Hughes

**Stage Manager** Emma Healy

**Costume Maker** Carmel Wenck

**Dancers** Aidra Refausse, Alissa Kouzmenkov, Brianna Lyddieth, Tilly Thomas, Claire Bryan, Eliza Flowers, Josie Cullen, Esther Gulley, Emma-lee Finlay, Ryanna Lawson, Tamyn Hunt, Chloe O'Sullivan, Mia Beame and Natalya Alexiou.

### Riannon McLean

Riannon was a member of Australasian Dance Collective from 2007 to 2013, performing in such productions as ***Where The Heart Is, R&J, Carmen Sweet*** and ***When Time Stops***.

She has an extensive professional performance career spanning more than 13 years, working with acclaimed choreographers and companies both in Australia and overseas. Riannon's teaching capabilities and qualities have seen her teach for Victorian Academy of Ballet, Victoria (Canada), BeijingDance/LDTX (China), Cathy Sharpe Dance Ensemble, (Switzerland), Melbourne Australian Ballet Gala, Australasian Dance Collective, QUT, WAPPA, 2Ballerinas, Daniel Jaber, Lina Limosani Projekts, ABDA and repertoire coach for ADC for the Brisbane International Contemporary Dance Prix, 2018 and on the Panel for 2019.

Riannon has choreographed works for Dancenorth, Dancenorth Extensions Youth Company, Cecchetti Qld, ACPA and QUT.



# Response Interrupted

## Michael Smith

*Response Interrupted* is a short performance work that embraces young bodies as turning points - figures that inherit great responsibility in times of change. The piece is ultimately an expression of empowerment and catharsis for young people to embrace self truths, to relinquish form and locate an invigorated freedom within inherited responsibility.



### Creatives

**Choreographer** Michael Smith

**Lighting Designer** Glenn Hughes

**Sound Designer** Anna Whitaker

**Stage Manager** Emma Healy

**Costume Maker** Carmel Wenck

**Dancers** Avalon Ormiston, Finn Armstrong, Zoe Paterson, Grace Campbell, Jacinta Bounkeua, Luchel Oegema, Mia Mangano, Rikia Bell, Charlotte Dunks, Makeda Callinicos-Tomlin, Sarah Bellenger, Teagan Potter, Sarah Kaplan and Trinity Andaloro.

### Michael Smith

Michael Smith is an Australian dancer and choreographer working within contemporary dance, dance-theatre, film and installation. Michael's work often questions the traditional roles of audience and space - traversing active participation and audience as allies. He places the body within state-driven processes as a basis for choreography, allowing these to form imagined realities that draw parallels between fantasy and reality.

Michael's work has been performed across platforms such as Dance Massive Site Responsive Showcase, Ars Electronica (Austria), TanzZiet (Berlin), AGITART Figueres Festival MOU (Spain), Japan Media Arts Festival, STRUT Dance WA SEED Residency, Metro Arts, Sunshine Coast Arts Prize and South Bank Corporation's Flowstate. He is currently an artist with The Farm, a dance-theatre company based on the Gold Coast. In support of Michael's choreographic practice, he is a recipient of the Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor's Fellowship (2019-2020), enabling opportunities across Europe and Israel.



# Solo Projects

## By the Youth Ensemble artists



The simple question that I asked the ensemble was - "If there were no limitations in place, and you could think beyond your wildest imaginings... what do you want to produce or perform and how would you achieve it?"

And so began the humble beginnings of **The Exchange Point project** (Echo Solo). A creative task that gave them the focus and purpose to thrive in a sustainable environment, empowering them to arrive at a highly successful end point - premiering solo dance films for performance.

Being thrust online, I felt it necessary to bring our focus away from devices and to the

simple act of communication. I wanted the ensemble to explore the deliberate, slow and meaningful actions of everyday letter writing as a means to convey movement directives to one another in preparation for a greater outcome. Single sparks conjured grand ideas written on paper and delivered by post. The anticipation of waiting for mail went hand-in-hand as we slowed our pace during lockdown. Time allowed each of them to research, explore and develop ideas, to learn creative responsibility and to discover ownership of their creative processes.

— Riannon McLean

Friday  
28 August  
7.30pm

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Sarah Kaplan

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Eliza Flowers

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Trinity Andalaro

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Finn Armstrong

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Alissa Kouzmenkov

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Ryanna Lawson

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Charlotte Dunks

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Claire Bryan

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Zoe Paterson

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Mia Beame

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Saturday  
29 August  
2.00pm

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Brianna Lyddieth

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Sarah Bellenger

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Teagan Potter

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Esther Gulley

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Avalon Ormiston

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Makeda Callinicos-Tomlin

---

Natalya Alexiou

---

Chloe O'Sullivan

---

Mia Mangano

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Saturday  
29 August  
7.30pm

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Tilly Thomas

---

Aidra Refausse

---

Grace Campbell

---

Jacinta Bounkeua

---

Emma-lee Finlay

---

Josie Cullen

---

Luchel Oegema

---

Tamyn Hunt

---

Rikia Bell

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# Queensland Performing Arts Centre

## QPAC

Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) is one of Australia's leading centres for live performance. QPAC is a venue, a producer, an investor, a presenter and a public place. Welcoming over 1.5 million visitors to more than 1200 performances each year, we embrace the best in live performance – the world renowned alongside the emerging, local and new – and connect to the stories and ideas at the heart of each production.

Central to QPAC's activities is the pursuit of excellence in live performance and cultural thinking to help sustain and grow our vibrant arts community.

QPAC strives to be a place where audiences and artists come together to relax, learn, reflect, share stories and celebrate.

### Acknowledgement

The Queensland Performing Arts Trust is a statutory body of the State of Queensland and is partially funded by the Queensland Government

The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Director-General, Department of Environment and Science – Jamie Merrick

QPAC respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Lands across Queensland and pays respect to their ancestors who came before them and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Patrons are advised that the Performing Arts Centre has EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES, a FIRE ALARM system and EXIT passageways. In case of an alert, patrons should remain calm, look for the closest EXIT sign in GREEN, listen to and comply with directions given by the inhouse trained attendants and move in an orderly fashion to the open spaces outside the Centre.

### Board of Directors

Professor Peter Coaldrake AO (Chair)  
Leigh Tabrett PSM (Deputy Chair)

### Trust Members

Dr Sally Pitkin  
Dare Power  
Georgina Richters  
Susan Rix AM  
Leanne de Souza

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**Executive Director, Stakeholder Engagement Strategy** Jackie Branch  
**Executive Director, Visitation** Roxanne Hopkins  
**Executive Director, Business Performance** Kieron Roost  
**Executive Director, Venue Infrastructure and Production Services** Bill Jessop

### QPAC Production Credits

**Director, Programming** John Glenn  
**Director, Public Engagement & Learning** Rebecca Lamoin  
**Marketing Manager** Alex Holloway  
**Event Manager** Peter Bretherton  
**Event Manager** Chris Horne  
**Project Officer** En Rui Foo

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# Connecting Safely at QPAC

For the past 35 years, QPAC has been a place where people come together to connect, feel and learn. While we're currently unable to operate in the same way as we have, we are determined to continue to connect artists with audiences and audiences with artists as deeply, safely and joyfully as possible.

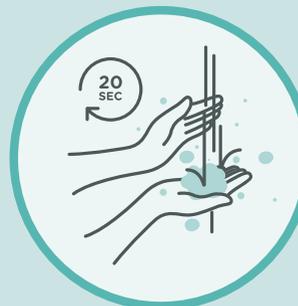
As restrictions ease and we are once again able to welcome audiences back, we have implemented the following measures for the safety and wellbeing of our visitors, staff and artists.



Stay home if you are unwell



Physical distancing



Hand hygiene



Please use contactless pay

BE COVIDSAFE

Visit [qpac.com.au](https://qpac.com.au) for more information.



# Meet the Collective

**Artistic Director**

Amy Hollingsworth

**General Manager**

Nick Engler

**Company Manager**

Jade Ellis

**Rehearsal Director**

Andrea Briody

**Youth Ensemble Director**

Riannon McLean

**Marketing &  
Communications Manager**

Rebekah Devlin

**Digital Design &  
Marketing Coordinator**

Alana Sargent

**Production Manager**

Wil Hughes

**Management Consultant**

Jan Irvine

**Administration Officer**

Adam Sleeman

**Bookkeeper**

Elizabeth Lepua

**Accountant**

Karen Mitchell

**Marketing Intern**

Audrey Freeman

**Board of Directors**

Marian Gibney (Chair)

Tony Denholder (Deputy Chair)

Roxanne Hopkins

Dare Power

Alan Scott

Bradley Chatfield

Amy Hollingsworth



Jack Lister



Josephine Weise



Bernhard Knauer



Marlo Benjamin



Lonii Garnons-Williams



Jake McLarnon



Chase Clegg- Robinson

# Coming up



## Auditions – 2021 Youth Ensemble

**25 OCTOBER 2020**

Creativity, growth and the pursuit of artistic individualism are at the forefront of Australasian Dance Collective's Youth Ensemble program - we aim to enrich, inspire and support the young dancers of our community. Instilling a strong sense of self and achievement, our young artists are nurtured and supported to build upon a strong foundation to become diverse arts practitioners.

Comprising young like-minded individuals, ADC's Youth Ensemble students aged 15-18 are given the opportunity to harness their passions and creativity, coming together in their collective pursuit of excellence.

**TO APPLY, HEAD TO**  
[australasiandancecollective.com](http://australasiandancecollective.com)

## Contemporary Dance Intensives Brisbane

**4-15 JANUARY 2021**

Our CDI allows participants the opportunity to learn with ADC's award-winning dancers, alongside a handpicked selection of industry-renowned guest artists. Throughout the program, students refine their technique, develop their performance skills through exploring ADC repertoire and deepen their ability to create unique and engaging dance.

Additionally, the teaching team offers their personal insights through sessions discussing physical fitness, nutrition, audition processes, career pathways and more.

CDI offers a holistic dance experience, giving participants insight into the world of a professional dancer, emphasising development of their ability and creativity, while encouraging sustainability.

**TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, EMAIL**  
[workshops@australasiandancecollective.com](mailto:workshops@australasiandancecollective.com)



# Echo Credits

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**Production Manager** Wil Hughes

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**Costume Maker** Carmel Wenck

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**Stage Manager** Emma Healy

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**Assistant Stage Manager** Jade Ellis

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**Senior Lighting Technician** Andrew Haden

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**Senior Sound & AV Technician** Alex Kelly

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**Seamstress** Carla Binotto

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## Our Partners & Supporters

Presenting Partner



Government Partners



Australasian Dance Collective acknowledges the assistance of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Partners



Designfront



Photography for Arc: David Kelly

## ADC Company & Youth Ensemble

Australasian  
Dance  
Collective



# Arc

Brisbane Festival

18-19 September

[australasiandancecollective.com](http://australasiandancecollective.com)

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