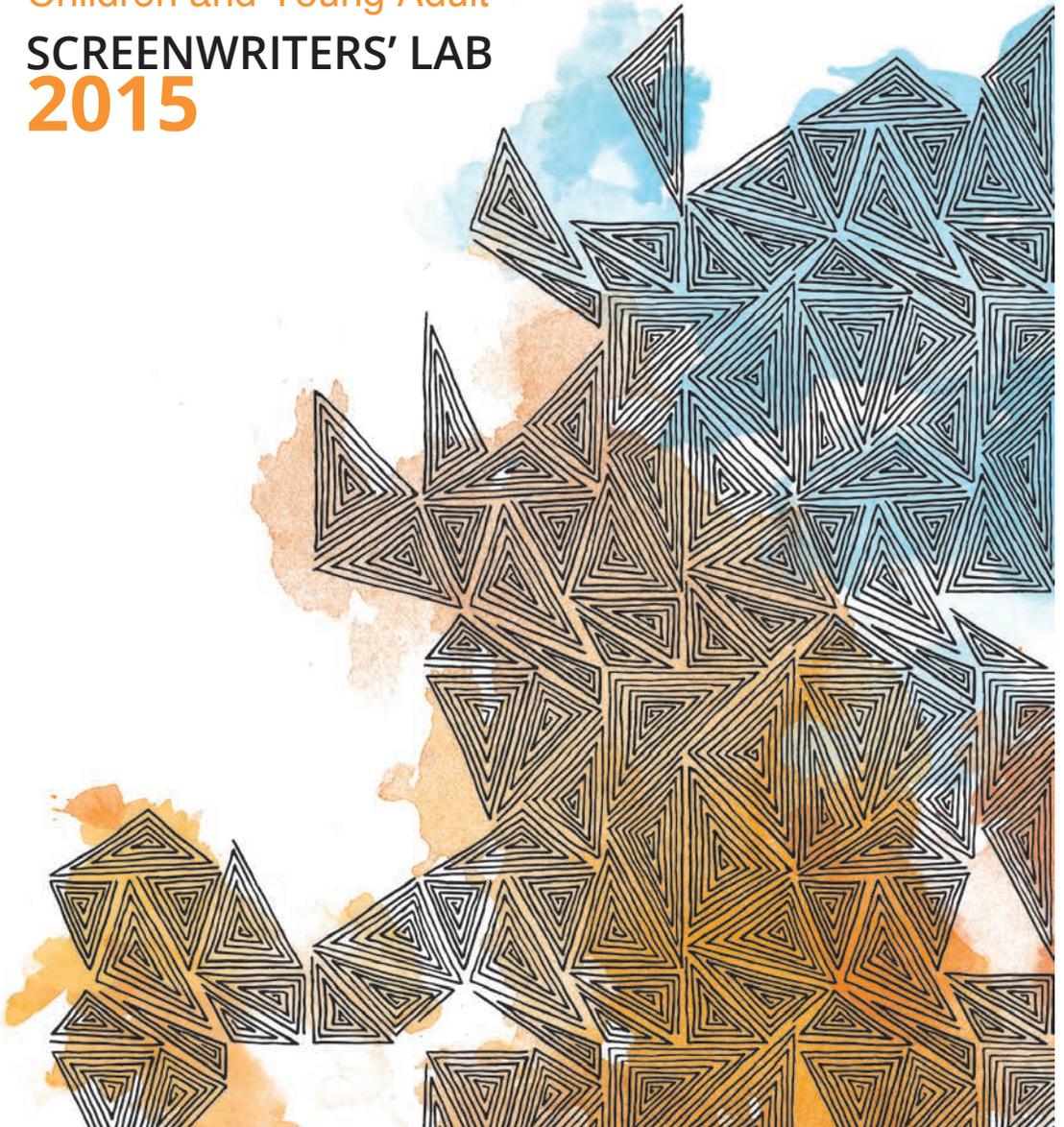




by NFDC

Children and Young Adult
SCREENWRITERS' LAB
2015





Welcome to Screenwriters' Lab 2015

Titli, The Lunchbox, Dum Laga Ke Haisha, Island City, Chauranga, The Good Road, Paltadacho Munis – the list of critically acclaimed and commercially successful films that began their journey in the Screenwriters' Lab is rather long. We are proud of our writers.

It is not a surprise that the Screenwriters' Lab – now in its 9th edition – is the most sought after lab by writers in India. This year, across three sections, we received over 450 applications for 18 places. More and more writers are realising the benefit of taking their script through the rigorous mentorship programme offered in the Screenwriters' Lab.

This year, we are excited about introducing a new lab dedicated to stories for children and young adults, a genre that has long been neglected in India. With the digital revolution, the potential for children's content is phenomenal.

Also for the first time, NFDC Labs has organized a pitching session where participants of all three Screenwriters' Labs will pitch their stories to a select audience of producers, studio heads and funders.

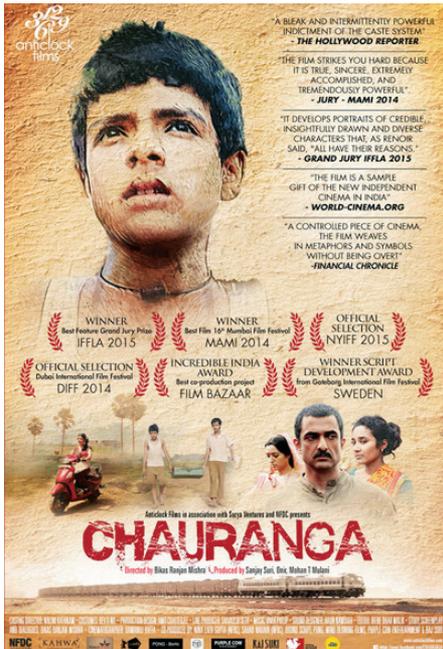
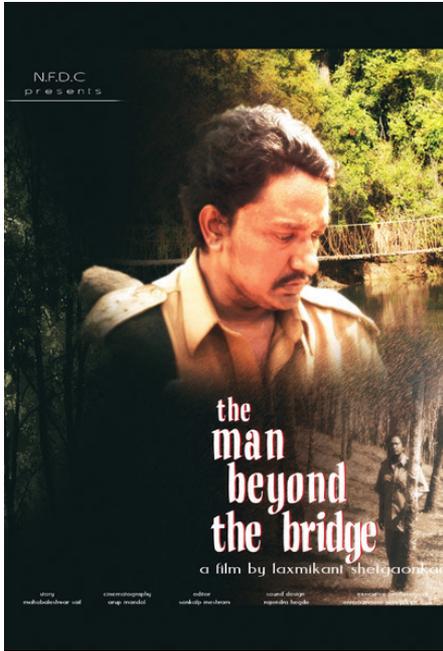
Welcome to the world of great stories.

NFDC Labs Team 2015

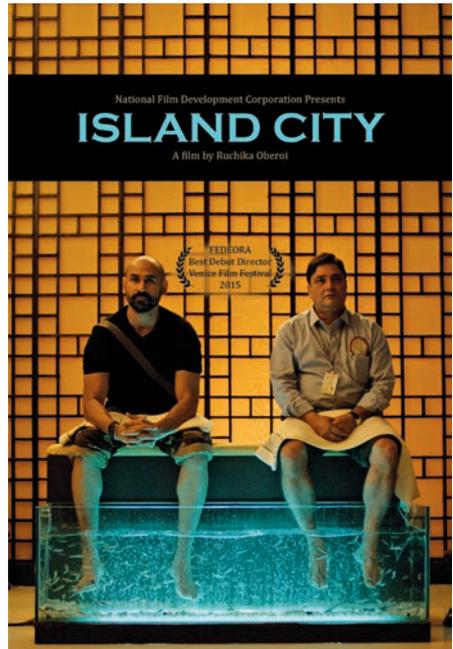


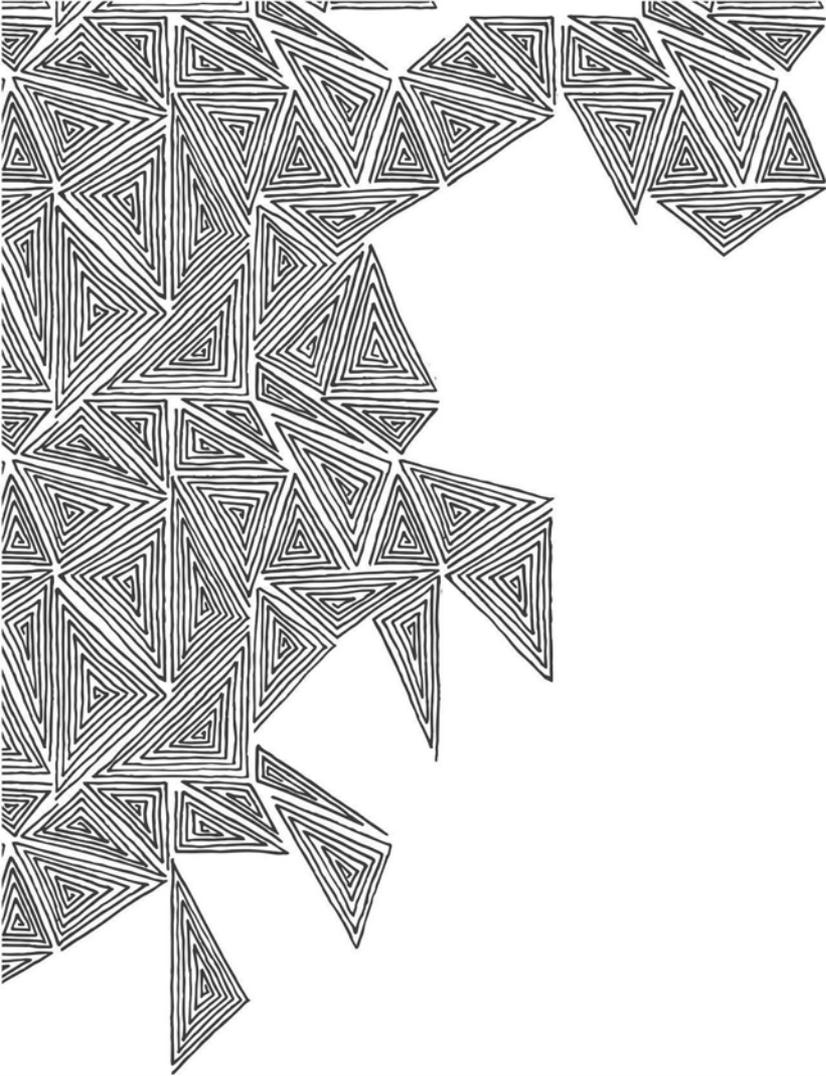
HIGHLIGHTS

Film Bazaar Screenwriters' Lab



HIGHLIGHTS
 Film Bazaar Screenwriters' Lab





Contents

SCREENWRITERS' LAB (Children & Young Adult)

A Lottery Ticket	Sagarika Banik	18
Adventures of Kaka and Kiki	Shreyas G. Thathachari	19
Kabuliwala	Soumitra Ranade	20
The Girl with the Gents' Bicycle	Ravi S. Alok	21
The Mahout	Sharmila Sankar	22
The Pink Wall of My School	Girish Jotwani	23
Mentors		24-25





A Lottery Ticket

Hindi

Sagarika Banik

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Synopsis

A Lottery Ticket is a coming-of-age story set in rural India. Siddhu, a ten-year-old boy from a poor family, has always dreamt of owning a bicycle – an unattainable dream until the day he learns about the lottery. He uses his saved up money to buy a lottery ticket convinced of its magical powers to get him the bicycle.

Siddhu's classmate Mahesh belongs to a rich family. When Mahesh hears the story of Siddhu's lottery ticket, he tries to take the ticket away from Siddhu, but fails.

One day, Siddhu loses his prized ticket. After searching for a while, he finds a similar ticket with Mahesh. When Siddhu confronts Mahesh, the rich boy claims the ticket to be his own and refuses to give it back. The ensuing confusion and drama continues up to the day of the lottery results. When neither Siddhu nor Mahesh win anything, Siddhu realises that there are no short-cuts to achieving dreams.

Biography

Sagarika Banik was born and brought up in a small town in West Bengal, India. After graduating in History, she went on to study filmmaking at Roopkala Kendro, an Indo-Italian Institute under the West Bengal Government in Kolkata. She started her career as an Assistant Director and moved to Mumbai where she worked in films, documentaries, television series and commercials.

Sagarika wrote and directed short films and documentaries before shifting her focus to feature screenplaywriting. Her short films, *We* and *Stuck in Traffic* have been screened at various film festivals. *The Lottery Ticket* would be her first feature film.

Adventures of Kaka and Kiki

Hindi

Shreyas G. Thathachari

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Synopsis

Karan, an introvert boy, is very upset about moving to a new friendless city. While waiting for the train, which is late by three hours, he gets lost in the vast railway station.

Desperate to find his parents, Karan meets 'Ki...Ki' – a boy with a speech impediment who calls him 'Ka...ka'. As the two boys try to find their way back to the adults, Kaka's favourite toy – also his best friend – gets stolen. Cops offer no help. Kaka and Kiki have to nab the crook themselves.

While pursuing the thief, Kaka and Kiki explore every inch of the railway station, including the thief's underground lair. They set up an elaborate trap for the thief that results in a domino effect, leaving Karan's frantic parents in gasps.

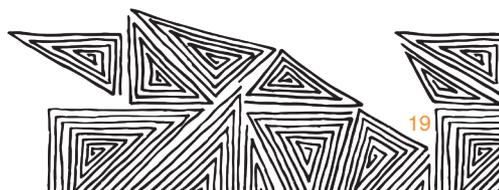
At the end of the adventure, although Karan has to bid goodbye to his new friend, he leaves with the knowledge that new adventures and newer friends await wherever he goes.

Biography

Over the last five years, Shreyas has worked in feature films, television series, short films, and commercials, assuming multiple roles.

Apart from developing his own scripts, he has worked as an assistant director and script supervisor in projects like the Walt Disney production, *Million Dollar Arm*, *Yudh* (starring Amitabh Bachchan) and *Yamla Pagla Deewana 2*.

Through these projects, he has gained experience in all facets of filmmaking – from writing and scheduling to shooting, editing, VFX, sound design and solving everyday problems on set. *The Adventures of Kaka and Kiki* would be his first feature.





Kabuliwala

Hindi

Soumitra Ranade

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Synopsis

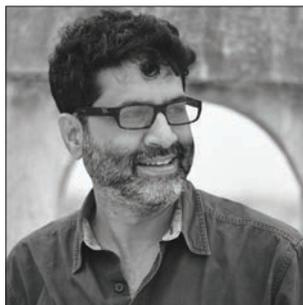
Six-year-old Mini lives in a dream world full of fire-spitting dragons, leaping giants and flying unicorns. Her reality, however, is quite different. Her father is always preoccupied with work and her mother is too busy with household chores. Mini has no choice but to play with her old dolls.

In a chance encounter, she meets a big burly dry-fruit seller from Kabul. Initially she is intimidated by his appearance but when he magically pulls out a gorgeous Arabian horse from his brilliantly colored shoulder bag, little Mini is completely mesmerized.

Soon she realizes that Kabuliwala — that's what she begins to call him — carries the most incredible stories from far away lands in his bag: stories of courage and compassion, wit and ingenuity. An intimate bond develops between the two most unlikely of friends.

Then, a devastating accident separates the two. When they reunite after 15 years, Mini comes to know of Kabuliwala's tragic past, full of war and separation from his daughter, Amina.

Adapted from Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's story, this animated film underlines that beyond geographical boundaries, religion, race and culture, the true essence of our existence is shared humanity.



Biography

Soumitra is a writer, director and producer of a number of animation and live action projects including feature films, TV serials and documentaries. His most significant work has been for children's films like *Jajantaram Mamantaram* and *Goopi Gawaiyaa Bagha Bajaiyaa*, and TV serials like *Karadi Tales* and *Bandbudh Aur Budbak*.

Soumitra has written and designed numerous books for children and is the Chairman and co-founder of Paperboat Design Studios, which produces a wide range of animation and live-action projects.

Soumitra is currently in the post-production stage of his feature film *Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyun Aata Hai?*, which he has written, directed and produced.

The Girl with the Gents' Bicycle

Hindi

Ravi S. Alok

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Synopsis

When Kusum, a teenage girl in a suburban town in Bihar, is admitted back to high school after a gap of three years, her family receives a cheque to buy her a bicycle under a popular state government policy that encourages girls to continue their education.

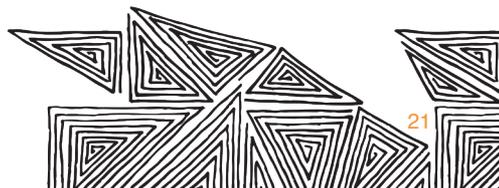
But, instead of buying a ladies' cycle, Kusum's father and brother bring back a big, bulky gents' bicycle and convince her that the big bicycle can be exchanged for a ladies' one the next market day. But even that hope is dashed when Kusum's brother breaks the cycle's side-mirror. The exchange is now impossible.

The sight of her brother riding the cycle makes Kusum even more miserable. But she refuses to be defeated. Early in the mornings, before everyone wakes, she sneaks out with the big cycle and learns to ride in the fields. Slowly, an unsaid bond develops between her and the gents' bicycle.

Eventually, Kusum discovers that the bicycle was never bought for her. She realizes that there is something very wrong with the world she lives in and decides to fight for what is rightfully hers.

Biography

Ravi S Alok is a writer and director based in Mumbai, India. He has co-written with Sudhir Mishra and has worked as an Assistant Director with RGV Film Factory Ltd. His shorts, *The Ticket* (2012), and *Khuli Khidki* (2013) have travelled to several festivals in India and abroad. Ravi holds a postgraduate diploma in Film and Television from Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts and Communication, New Delhi.





The Mahout

Malayalam, English

Sharmila Sankar

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Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Ammini has one single dream. To learn to ride Unni, her pet elephant. All the villagers laugh. How can a girl become a mahout?

Unni, the elephant, only wants to play and eat. He simply refuses to be trained.

One night, Unni is stolen. Heartbroken, Ammini disguises herself as a boy and enlists the help of Adam and Nick – two American journalists backpacking through Kerala – to find Unni.

The trio finds Unni sold to a lumberyard. To bring him back, Ammini must become a mahout. She dresses up as a boy, joins the lumberyard and begins to learn to train elephants. Adam and Nick bring her story alive on their YouTube channel.

But soon, Ammini, Adam and Nick realise that the lumberyard is only a front for an elephant-poaching racket. To make things worse, Ammini's disguise is exposed.

Can Nick and Adam overcome the evil poachers? Will Unni ever belong to Ammini again? Will she ever become a mahout?

Biography

Trained at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune and FEMIS, Paris, Sharmila has worked as an associate producer in Salon Multimedia, Hong Kong. She was the producer of *Pardes*, a community TV show in San Francisco. As the General Manager for Tarantella Pictures, Sharmila executed *Diva*, a Malay feature and *Kiss Kiss Ko*, a Hindi film shot in Indonesia.

In 2011, Sharmila founded WilderIndia, and published 8 Indian wildlife books for children. She has directed *Pyaari Dulhan*, a film about a jealous donkey, which was screened at Festival of Globe, California.

Sharmila was awarded the Best Debut Director, at Mumbai Women's International Film Festival in 2014.

The Pink Wall of My School

Hindi

Girish Jotwani

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Synopsis

At 13, Nikhil's life goes for a toss when his all-boys school gets merged with its nearby sister-school. As the school walls turn pink and the girls arrive much to the excitement and anxiety of the boys, Nikhil finds himself at odds: he is both attracted and intimidated by the new entrants.

As Nikhil tries to deal with the rapid changes at school and his puberty, his best friend Sanju makes no effort to suppress his curiosity for the girls in spite of being challenged by their authority. The teachers too have no clue about where to draw the line between the boys and girls. To top it all, Nikhil develops a crush on Manjari, a girl who just wants to go back to her carefree 'Girls'-school-ways'.

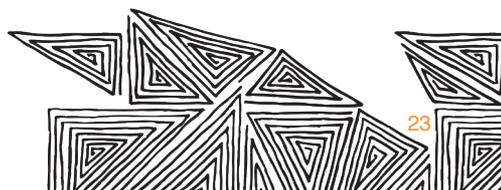
At home, Nikhil watches his father trying to come to terms with his wife's new lingerie shop. Things get even more complicated when Carol – Nikhil's NRI uncle's step-daughter – arrives for a visit.

Nikhil is simply not prepared for a Co-Ed life.

But when a fight breaks out between the girls and boys of the school's drama team, Nikhil – torn between his loyalty to his friends and his love for Manjari – takes a drastic step.

Biography

Born and raised in Lucknow, Girish Jotwani left the city to secure a Post Graduate Diploma in Film Editing from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. Since then, he has written, edited and directed several short films and advertisements, some of which were screened in various film festivals. He got to work closely with children while making a documentary and has conducted several workshops for them. *The Pink Wall of My School* would be Girish's first feature.



Mentors

Screenwriters' Lab - Children & Young Adult



Mieke de Jong

Mieke de Jong, a writer from the Netherlands, has written several feature films, television series, television plays and shorts. Mieke's screenplay, *Winter in Wartime* was shortlisted for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 2010. Her other work too has won several awards at festivals all over the world. Mieke's stories are densely populated by strong characters in unusual situations. Her feature films for children have been appreciated by children and adults alike. At present, Mieke coaches young writers and teaches at the Dutch Film Academy.



Rasmus Horskjær

Rasmus Horskjær is a freelance writer, director and concept developer. Since 1998, he has worked with The Danish Broadcasting Corporation. He has served as the Film Commissioner at the Danish Film Institute from 2010 to 2014, where he created a new agenda based on his strong ambition to integrate genre elements in Danish films for young audiences. He has also supported and co-developed 11 feature films on behalf of the Danish Film Institute: *NordVest* (Tribeca 2013), *Antboy* (Toronto 2013), *When Animals Dream* (Cannes 2014) being the noted few. As an active part of the new generation in Danish youth television, he has written and directed several comedy and satire shows, and series. He has just finished directing the historical satire show *Denmark* which premiered on national Danish television in October 2015. Rasmus is also a Member of Generation Jury, Berlinale (2012) and an avid blogger for Danish film magazine *Ekko*.



Anna Tamara Bos

Tamara Bos has written almost thirty books and several feature films, drama series and single plays, mainly for children. Her debut, *Class Dismissed* won the Prix Jeunesse (1996), the Dutch Academy Award (1997) and the LIRA Writer's Award (1999) for the Best Drama Script for Children. Tamara has also adapted the novels of the famous Dutch writer, Annie M.G. Schmidt. Her other screenplays include *Minoes* (2001) and *Pluk and His Towtruck* (2004). Her first original screenplay, *Winky's Horse* (2005), was a national and international success and was selected for Berlin, Tokyo and Chicago film festivals. She also won a Golden Calf for the best original screenplay at the Dutch Film Festival (2005). Her latest feature *Fidgety Bram* (2011) won the UPC Cinekid Award 2012 for Best Feature Film at the Cinekid Festival, Amsterdam.



Sanjay Suri

Sanjay Suri has produced four features and acted in 26 feature films. He has been associated with the Indian Entertainment industry for over 15 years. In 2005, Sanjay independently produced and acted in the award winning film, *My Brother Nikhil*, India's first main stream feature dealing with the stigma of HIV and homosexuality. Sanjay's third feature, *I Am* (2011), won a National Award and was India's largest crowd-sourced film with over 400 co-producers from 40 cities across the world. Sanjay's diverse experience, knowledge and vision of the Indian film industry along with international exposure of festivals and markets, both as an actor and an independent producer empowers him with tremendous knowledge of production, creativity, marketing and distribution.





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