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Farmers Bank is a community bank founding in 1919 to server our neighbors - the farmers, businesses and families in Isle of Wight County, Virginia and its surrounding communities. Headquartered in Windsor, we have grown with locations in Smithfield, Courtland, three branches in Suffolk, and most recently branches in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach. Our core values of courtesy, promptness, reliability and security have remained unchanged, while the products and services we offer are continually improving and evolving to meet the needs of every customer.



no photography or videography is permitted during the show.
Please stay after the show to meet the cast and take photos.

President's Note:

Patrons, Family, and Friends –

Welcome to the theatre!

It has been said that you only have one chance to make a first impression and that is evident in She Loves Me. I am excited for the performers who will also be making their first impressions on the SLT stage in this show as well – onstage and in the band! I am certain that your first impressions of them will be more favorable than Georg's of Amalia!

Is it possible to fall in love with someone you hated? Or hate someone you did not realize you loved? While I am not sure how often that happens in "real life", it sure does make for a fun evening at the theatre!

If you are not a season subscriber, consider joining us for our 2023-2024 season. We will be presenting the following shows:

- Four Old Broads
- Exit Laughing
- The Sound of Music

If you would like additional information about becoming a subscriber, please speak to a Box Office volunteer.

If you would like to get involved with the theatre, please submit a Volunteer Application online at https://www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org/volunteers.html. We would love to have you! While on the website, be sure to join our mailing list (under the Tickets header) to be notified of upcoming auditions, volunteer opportunities, ticket sales, and our SLT Newsletter.

Thank-you to everyone who had a hand in putting this show together and thank-you to YOU for your continued support!

Enjoy the show.

James Clarke

My Dear Audience Members.

Thank you so much for coming to today's performance of She Loves Me. While directing my last season show, Little Women, I had such an amazing cast that I never thought I would get so lucky again. However, the cast for this show has easily been one of the most beautiful, kind, and fun group of people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I believe you will see the bonds and cohesiveness they have formed during rehearsals and off the stage translate into the performance you will see today.

First, I would like to thank my production staff. I truly have the best of the best at SLT behind me. Every single one of them has worked so hard to make this show come to life. I would especially like to thank Mark for taking the leap and trusting me as he produced a show for the first time. He was always there for me to bounce ideas off and to pick up any tasks that I asked of him. I hope to continue our Melms/Hall Production team in the future!

Now, the cast. This is a unique show where the seven leads and ten ensemble members almost operate as two separate casts. Navigating rehearsals with that dynamic has certainly been a challenge, but one that we made work as best as possible. Bringing to life an entire shop on stage, from the selling to the shopping to the re-stocking, has most assuredly been an experience, especially when you have some cast that have never even worked in the customer service industry! I have so enjoyed my time getting to know each and every one of them. Some I had worked with many times before and quite a few are brand new faces to our SLT stage. This cast is filled with AMAZING talent, and I hope they all come back to our stage again!

She Loves Me is often described as a jewel box musical meaning it has a more intimate storyline than most musicals and is dainty, precise, quaint, and beautiful. I think one of the most unique things about this show is that the side storylines are just as complete and well-seen on stage as the main storyline. Also, each character is so complex with such a range of emotions and depth that is not frequently seen across seven different characters in one show. Something I pointed out to the cast during our read through that I would also like to point out to you today is something that, while not the happiest thing, puts this how, storyline, and characters into a new perspective. She Loves Me takes place in mid-1930s Europe where troubles were already starting with the Nazi regime and wartime imminent. The economy of the time saw businesses closing, employees afraid of no longer having a job, and customers who did have money to spend were treated at a much higher level. "The radiance that surrounds the characters in She Loves Me takes on a special poignancy when we realize that many of them probably perished during the Second World War as the Germans and Russians struggled over Budapest. In our post-perestroika world, the show is even more evocative. As Sheldon Harnick stated in an article in Playbill magazine, "People now seem to feel She Loves Me has something to say about humanity, about decency - in the light of everything that's now happening in Eastern Europe."" (From the MTI Study Guide for She Loves Me, because I couldn't have said it better myself!)

So, sit back and enjoy this show. Lose yourself in the story. Feel their emotions. Live their lives. And when it's over, I hope there is something you can take from this show, because you never know who is on the other side of your metaphorical letter!

Jenn, Director



Jenn Melms (Director) has been part of the family here at SLT for over 25 years and currently serves on the Board of Directors as Vice President. She last directed Little Women the Musical and SLT's COVID Christmas streamed show, It's A Wonderful Life: A Radio Play as well as co-directed two Summer Youth Projects, The Nifty Fifties and Seussical Jr. Jenn has also choreographed many shows at SLT including Oliver!, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, and numerous Summer Youth Projects. While she has been focusing on the production side of shows more recently, she was last seen on stage in Hairspray, Sin, Sex, and the CIA, and Anything Goes. Outside of the theatre, she works with MediaCross as their Knowledge Center Manager and enjoys time with her three daughters, Jocelyn, Aurora, and Haylee, and husband, Jesse. Jenn would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support that allowed her to get back in the director's seat!

She Loves Me



PLACE Europe

TIME PERIOD 1930s

Musical Numbers:

Act 1:

Good Morning, Good Day Georg, Arpad, Sipos, Ilona, Kodaly Sounds While Selling Customers, Sipos, Kodaly, Georg

Thank You, Madam Clerks
Days Gone By Maraczek
No More Candy Amalia

Three Letters Amalia, Georg

Tonight at Eight Georg

I Don't Know His Name Amalia, Ilona

Perspective Sipos

Goodbye Georg Customers, Clerks

Will He Like Me? Amalia
Ilona Kodaly
I Resolve Ilona
A Romantic Atmosphere Waiter

Mr. Nowack, Will You Please? Amalia, Waiter

Dear Friend Amalia

Act 2:

Try Me Arpad

Days Gone By (Reprise) Maraczek

Where's My Shoe? Amalia, Georg

Vanilla Ice Cream Amalia
She Loves Me Georg
A Trip to the Library Ilona
Grand Knowing You Kodaly

Twelve Days to Christmas Carolers, Customers, Clerks

Finale Georg, Amalia



Mickade Atchley

Mickade (ensemble) started with the Smithfield Little Theatre in 2015 with the Summer Youth Project, when he was 13. Since then, he has been in many shows, some favorites are *Legally Blonde, Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Young Frankenstein*. He currently attends Virginia Peninsula Community College and is seeking a degree in Automotive Technology. When not working, he enjoys working on his own vehicles and traveling to the beach with his cat, Hoosier!



Hayley Birnbaum

Hayley (ensemble) is excited to be back at SLT and to get to do this beautiful show. She graduated from ODU in 2021 with a BA in Theatre, is currently a Substitute Teacher for Norfolk Public Schools as well as working at the Hermitage, and has been working in theatre for over thirteen years. Her most recent credentials include being Sally Brown in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* with Smithfield Little Theatre, Helga in *Cabaret* with Virginia Wesleyan University, ensemble in *Pippin* with Little Theatre of Norfolk, ensemble in *Cinderella* with Old Dominion University, and ensemble in *Blood Brothers* with Generic Theater. Enjoy the show!



Grace Fitzpatrick

Grace (Ilona Ritter) is overjoyed to be making her SLT debut as Ilona Ritter, and finds it quite exciting to play a character very different from herself. Stage Credits include Into The Woods' as Cinderella, and Gypsy' as Louise. You may have recently seen her as a Christmas Caroler in the streets of England at Busch Gardens Williamsburg. When offstage, you can find her as a party princess around Hampton Roads, swimming, finding new coffee shops, or cuddling her dog, Olive. Grace is on Instagram @gracehfitz



Beth Goddin

Beth (Amalia Balash) is thrilled to be making her SLT debut with this beautiful show! A senior at Hampton Roads Academy in Newport News, she plans to pursue a BFA in musical theatre next year. Her favorite theatre credits include Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* and The Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz.* Beth would like to thank her parents, sister, and voice teacher, Mary Matthews, for their steadfast support.



Jeff Joyner

Jeff (Ladislav Sipos) has been fortunate over the past 40+ years to have performed roles in almost every community, collegiate, and professional venue in the area. Favorites include Cosme in Souvenir, Father in Children of Eden here at SLT, and 18 Gilbert and Sullivan characters ranging from Ralph Rackstraw to Major General Stanley to Katisha. He has sung with the VA Opera chorus for many years and has appeared as a soloist for many churches, as well as Symphonicity and the Chesapeake Bay Wind Ensemble. Retired after 32 years of teaching music in Newport News, Jeff is a church pianist, an avid gardener, husband, and chiweenie co-parent.



Timothy Johnson

Tim (ensemble) is a sophomore at Christopher Newport University where he is studying Musical Theatre and Dance. He has been performing since the age of 13 and has trained in various dances styles, such as ballet, tap, ballroom, Irish Step, acro and more! His recent credits include: Head Over Heels (ensemble/dance swing) and Pippin (ensemble) both with Theater CNU. Sound of Music (ensemble) with Virginia Arts Festival; A Storyland Christmas (Mayor Miserly) with MasterWorks. This is his first show with SLT and he is honored to perform with this amazing cast and crew in one of his favorite musicals.



Amanda Kight

Amanda (ensemble) is a 2020 grad of Christopher Newport University. She was previously seen in PCT's Bridges of Madison County as Francesca. Amanda is a voice teacher in Virginia Beach. This is her first show at SLT and is thrilled to be a part of this amazing cast!



Lily Kitchen

Lily (ensemble) is super excited to finally be back on the SLT stage and cast with such a fun group of people. Her last appearance here was in Legally Blonde, but she also enjoyed her previous involvements in Children of Eden, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and the Summer Youth Productions. During the Covid shut-down, Lily was hard at work becoming a Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant, and now works for Riverside Health System. She is also passionate about portrait photography, leading worship at her church, working out, and social dancing.



Madelyn Monk

Madelyn (ensemble) is a Virginia native who has been involved with theater and performance since she was a child. She graduated with a degree in drama from Hofstra University in 2022. There she took part in multiple student run plays as a member of the Spectrum players. More recently she was part of the ensemble in *Much Ado About Nothing*, put on by the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach. Performing is one of her favorite things, and she is very excited to be able to perform in such a wonderful show.



Carrie Grace Morgan

Carrie Grace (ensemble) is a first grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary School. She also teaches musical theatre at StudioSeventeen. Some of her favorite roles include Rosie in Mamma Mia, Janet van de Graaff in The Drowsy Chaperone, and Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn in The Music Man" When she isn't teaching, she enjoys chasing after her 1 year-old puppy Hazel Mae and her sister Maggie Mae. Carrie Grace is also a Baltimore Oriole fan

Bob (Mr. Maraczek) moved to Smithfield and became involved in the Smithfield Little Theatre after 27 years in the United States Navy and 13 years working for The Coca Cola Company. His past performances at SLT include *Anything Goes, Oliver!*, *The Addams Family, Little Women*, and *Young Frankenstein*. Bob has also served at SLT as Treasurer and President of the Board of Directors.

Bob Neel



Aaron (ensemble) is no stranger to SLT. He participated in many of the Summer Youth Projects and has helped backstage on many productions. He is currently a 10th grader at Windsor High School and was recently accepted in the Governor's School for Science and Technology in Hampton.

Aaron Post



John (Arpad Laszlo) is an SLT veteran and is proud to be returning for his 19th show here, and 41st show in Hampton Roads. John first started acting with the very first Summer Youth Project in 2013, and since then he has had the pleasure of working professionally at Virginia Stage Co. in their production of *Fun Home* and Virginia Musical Theatre's production of *Seussical*. Other notable productions include Frozen Jr., at Windsor High School, in which John Directed and played Olaf, Lewis in *Pippin* at Little Theatre of Norfolk, Ensemble in *Spongebob* and *Cabaret* at Virginia Wesleyan University(VWU), and D Vicious in *Airness* at VWU. When not onstage, John can be found either backstage or working hard in school, he is currently a First-Year at VWU, and is a member of their Honors College!

John Post



Andrew Smith

Andrew (Steven Kodaly) is a University of Maryland alumni with a BA in Theatre- Voice, Speech, Accents and Dialects. He has been on stage at PCT in Hairspray, Big River, Les Miserables, Bare: a pop opera, and Spring Awakening. He also has been Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar at Williamsburg Players. He was seen here at SLT in roles like Artful Dodger in Oliver, Motel the Tailor in Fiddler on the Roof, Hero in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Wadsworth in Clue and most recently Chris in Hands on a Hardbody as well as Co-Directing A Charlie Brown Christmas. He's excited to be reuniting with friends old and new onstage.



Don-Michael (ensemble) is so excited to be a part of the *She Loves Me* cast. This is his second stage production, and he is overjoyed to have been given an opportunity in such a rich, joyful, and vibrant show. Don-Michael spends his days teaching high school literature and his evenings earning a PhD in Christian Education and Leadership. But above all, Don-Michael believes that every new opportunity and experience is a blessing, and he prays that he can be a light for everyone he encounters.

Don-Michael Smith



Cory Steiger

Cory (Georg Nowack) was recently seen as Michael in Peninsula Community Theatre's production of *Bridges of Madison County*, Bobby in Virginia Wesleyan's production of Cabaret, and Pippin in Little Theatre of Norfolk's production of *Pippin*. He has toured with Virginia Repertory Theatre, recorded vocals for Rainbow Puppets Productions, and teaches theatre at Centerstage Academy of Performing Arts.



Robert Walters

Robert (waiter) has been a Stormwater Engineer in York County since this last summer. This show is only his second theater production and first with SLT following an ensemble role in *The Bridges of Madison County*. He has a degree in Vocal Performance and is classically trained in a variety of styles as well as being capable of singing a multitude of languages including French, German, and Italian. He has even performed in the Joy of Christmas at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Recently, he was also accepted to be a member for Doorway Singers, a performing group based out of Virginia Beach. He is so excited to be able to show off all the hard work that has gone into making this incredible show come to life.



Mark Hall (Producer) is married to JoAnn West Hall and they now live empty nest, if you do not count all the labradoodles. He is CEO of Hallwood Enterprises, Inc. and is a developer of commercial and residential real estate in Genuine Smithfield. Mark is a former president of SLT. Past stage experiences include *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *George M!*, *The Music Man*, *Children of Eden*, and *Legally Blonde* to name a few. Mark would like to thank the entire cast, crew, and orchestra for bringing this great big, beautiful musical to life. Break a leg, baby!





Sharon Suttle (Stage Manager) lives in Suffolk with her husband Pat and son Patrick. She has enjoyed working backstage at SLT since 2003. She has performed in *Savannah Sipping Society, Little Shop of Horrors, Dixie Swim Club* and *Always a Bridesmaid*. She has also served on the Board of Directors and is currently co-chairman of the Reading Committee. While not backstage at SLT, she enjoys backpacking, hiking, cycling and camping. Many thanks to the cast, crew and those behind the scenes for their many hours of hard work in putting together this wonderful show. Most of all, thanks to my family for their love and support!

About the Band...



Trey Gwaltney (Band Director) is second generation Smithfield Little Theatre member, and having practically grown up on the SLT stage, Trey has directed and performed in numerous productions, worked backstage, choreographed musical numbers, conducted bands, and twice served on the SLT Board of Directors. He was last seen on stage as Alfie Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* at PCT, and as Max in *The Producers* at SLT. If you've enjoyed the live music at SLT over the last twenty years, it's very likely he was directing it! Some of his favorite performacy include Forever Plaid, Joseph...Dreamcoat, Guys and Dolls, Arsenic and Old Lace, Music Man, Oliver!, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Spamalot, and Pump Boys and Dinettes.



Piano-Cindy Wersosky
Keyboards-James Clarke, Erika Chesson
Violins-Kimberly Lorenz, Daphne Franklin
Viola-Joyce Singleton
Flute, Piccolo-Trudie Matthews
Clarinets, Bass Clarinet-Connor Greenleaf, Shelby

Lane, Ally Martins, Jack Bausman

Trumpets-Austin Simmons, John Neagle

French Horn-Claire Schaumleffel

Bass-Rhett Franklin **Drums**-John Petrone





Smithfield XIttle Theatre is delighted to bring back a live band for our performances of "She Xoves Me". Thank you to all of the band members for your hard work and dedication!

Creative Staff:

Director- Jennifer Melms

Producer- Mark Hall

Choreographers- Jenn Melms & Lily Kitchen

Costumes- Leslie Neel, Jean Kelberg, Rachel Popp,

Mary LeCompte, JoAnn Reynolds, Andrew Smith,

Elaine Brown & Jennifer Melms

Lighting- Dan Steiger

Marquee- Adam Dennison

Photography- John Cannon

Props- Judy Post and Sharon Suttle

Set Designer- Robert Cox

Set Crew- Steve Kelberg, Mike Hildreth, Charles Elmore, Mary LeCompte, Hayley Birnbaum, Grace Fitzpatrick, Andrew Smith, Beth Goddin & Jennifer Melms

Sound- Caleb Kitchen

Stage Manager- Sharon Suttle

Stage Crew- Ethan Price, Judy Post, Aaron Post, Lisa Post, Heather Guilford, Adam Dennison and Adelaide Dennison

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SHE LOVES ME

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www.mtishows.com

Joe Masteroff: Joe Masteroff was best known as the book writer for the Tony Award-winning Cabaret. Coming to New York from Philadelphia after attending Temple University and serving in the U.S. Air Force, he was represented in New York City by the play The Warm Peninsula, the libretto for an operatic version of Eugene O'Neill's Desire Under the Elms and the book and lyrics for a recent production of Six Wives at the York Theatre Company.

Jerry Bock: Jerry Bock was born in New Haven, Connecticut on November 23rd, 1928. That was his first out-of-town tryout. Thirty years later, he and Sheldon Harnick gave birth to *The Body Beautiful* in Philadelphia. That was his fourth out-of-town tryout. In between was Catch a Star, a fleeting revue that, according to critic Walter Kerr, posed the question; "What do you call something between a flop and a smash?" Kerr's answer? "A flash". Next, Jule Styne and Tommy Valano midwifed Bock, Larry Holofcener and George Weiss into birthing Mr. Wonderful starring Sammy Davis Jr. The title song and "Too Close For Comfort" are still active off springs. Bock and Harnick's celebrated collaboration yielded five scores in seven years. The Body Beautiful, Fiorello! (winner of Broadway's triple crown: The Tony Award, The New York Critics' Circle Award and The Pulitzer Prize in drama, the fourth musical to do so). Tenderloin, She Loves Me - (winner of Variety's poll of critics as best musical, citing Bock and Harnick as best composer and lyricist). Fiddler on the Roof - (nine Tonys, notably the citation for best musical of the year), The Apple Tree and The Rothschilds. In addition to the 1989 silver anniversary production of Fiddler (from which a major excerpt was featured in Jerome Robbins' Broadway), a highly esteemed revival of The Rothschlds enjoyed a successful run off-Broadway the following year. Since then, Bock and Harnick were triply honored by being inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame, receiving the Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Spirit of American Creativity Award from the Foundation for a Creative America. But the "award" that Bock holds near and dear is the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Wisconsin. It was there that he met his wife Patti, and it was there that he decided to be a composer. Mr. Bock is a member of a number of professional guilds and associations, among which the BMI Foundation, Inc. is a membership he relishes. As for Patti, his wife, George, their son and Portia, their daughter, Bock confesses they are his longest running hit.

Sheldon Harnick: Sheldon Harnick's career began in the 1950s with songs in revues (e.g., "The Boston Beguine," "The Merry Little Minuet"). With Jerry Bock he created a number of memorable musicals, including Fiorello! (Tony Award, Pulitzer Prize), Tenderloin, She Loves Me (Grammy), Fiddler on the Roof (Tony), The Apple Tree, and The Rothschilds (subsequently revised as Rothschild & Sons). Other collaborations: Rex (Richard Rodgers), A Christmas Carol (Michel Legrand), A Wonderful Life (Joe Raposo), The Phantom Tollbooth (Arnold Black, Norton Juster), and The Audition (Marvin Hamlisch). He has written three musicals himself: Dragons, A Doctor in Spite of Himself, and Malpractice Makes Perfect. He and his wife Margery currently reside in New York City.

MTI: Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide.

MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior™ shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students.

MTI maintains its global headquarters in New York City with additional offices in London (MTI Europe) and Melbourne (MTI Australasia).



Doyle Agnew

Design and Consign of Newport News, VA for lending us the cash register and other props.



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Visit our website at <u>www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org/volunteers.html</u> and fill out a volunteer form.

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SLT awards a \$1500.00 scholarship each year to a deserving student who has shown interest in the performing arts and is pursuing higher education at a 2 or 4 year accredited college or university.

How can YOU help?

- ★ Donate to the Scholarship fund- Every dollar donated goes to the Fund; no administrative costs are deducted
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Interested in donating to the Scholarship Fund?

If you are interested in donating or know a deserving student that would like to apply, details are available at www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org or by contacting Elaine Dairo, Scholarship Chair at 757-365-0387.

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www.williamsburgplayers.org (757) 229-0431



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Do you want to learn about theatre?
Do you want to have fun and make friends this summer?

Smithfield Little Theatre will be offering two youth summer projects this upcoming summer!

It is perfect for kids who love to sing, dance, and act, or who want to learn about theatre. Kids will learn and have fun, while putting on a show!

Project 1- <u>The Addams Family School</u> <u>Edition</u>

Ages: 12-18

Dates: June 19-August 6

Monday-Thursday 6:00pm-8:30pm

Show Dates: August 4-6

Cost: \$250

Project 2- Winnie the Pooh

Ages: 7-12

Dates: June 26-August 6

Monday-Thursday 6:00pm-8:00pm

Show Dates: August 4-6

Cost: \$200.



Scan here and fill out the form for more information!







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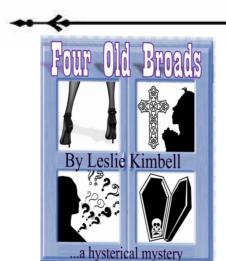


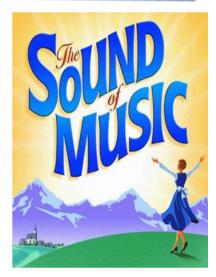
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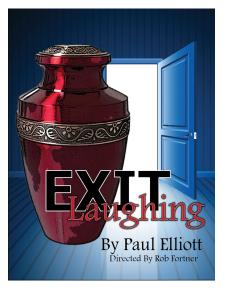
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