

SAMMERS

A SHORT FILM BY PORTIA LUNDIE

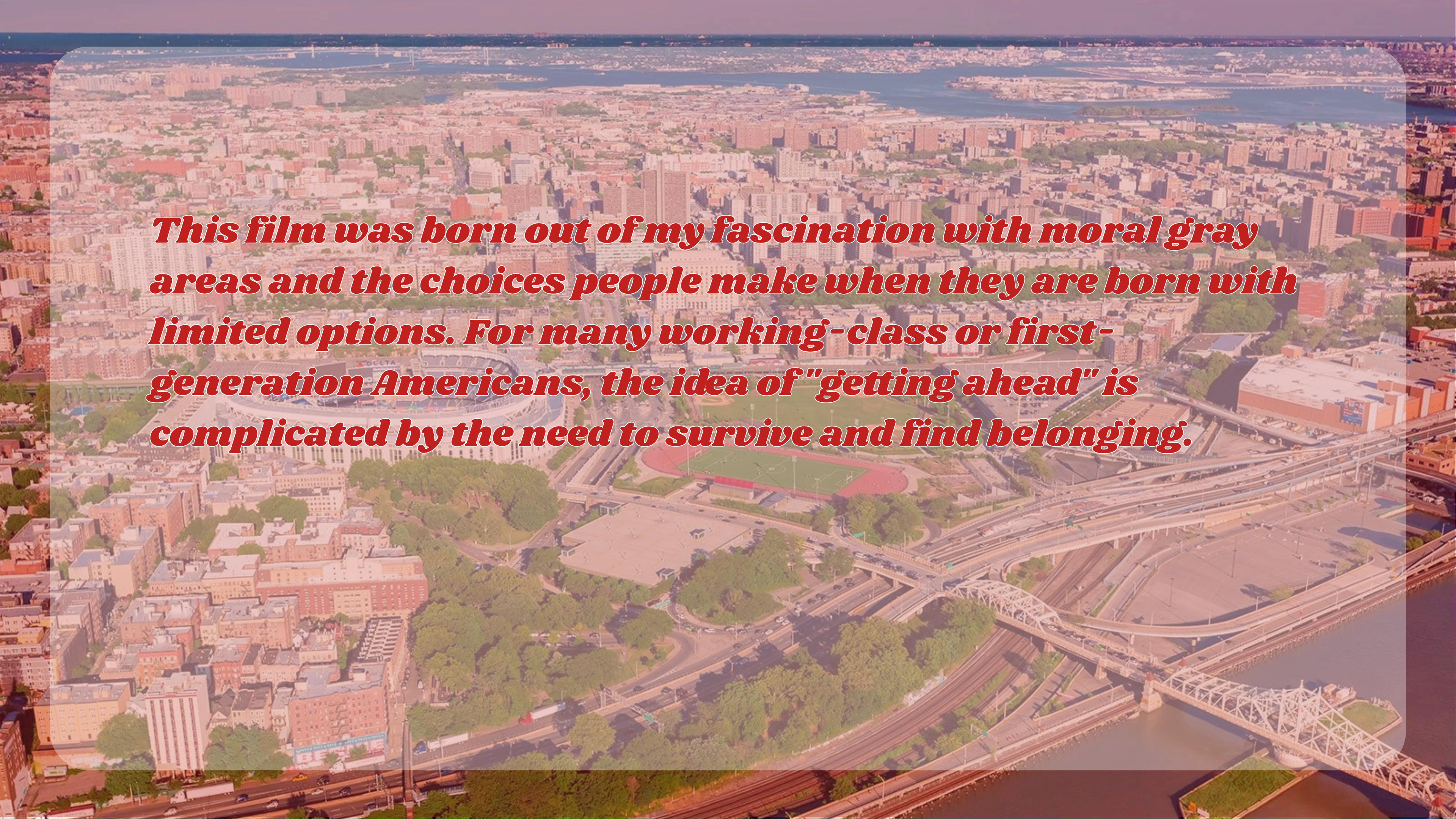
SYNOPSIS

Mayla, 22 years old and still living with her religious Caribbean mother in Yonkers, sneaks off to meet her white best friend, who lives alone in her Dad's apartment in a gentrifying neighborhood in the Bronx.

Once there, a charming local convinces them to join an ATM scam that tests their morals & friendship.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

SCAMMERS follows Mayla or 'May,' a young woman who is unable to be herself at home. She escapes to the city to visit her best friend Jessica, who lives under a very different set of rules and whose family is part of a wave of gentrification changing the face of the Bronx. What starts as a brief moment of freedom for May turns into a test of morality and friendship.

An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, likely New York City, featuring a large river, a bridge, and a stadium. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple rectangle containing text.

This film was born out of my fascination with moral gray areas and the choices people make when they are born with limited options. For many working-class or first-generation Americans, the idea of "getting ahead" is complicated by the need to survive and find belonging.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, a large stadium (Yankee Stadium) in the center, and a bridge (Queensboro Bridge) crossing a body of water in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, red, italicized font.

In SCAMMERS, May and Jessica navigate the blurry lines between right and wrong, beyond religious and class doctrine. Blending humor and angst against the gritty underbelly of city life, this film explores how privilege shapes our sense of morality and the risks we take with our spiritual well-being.

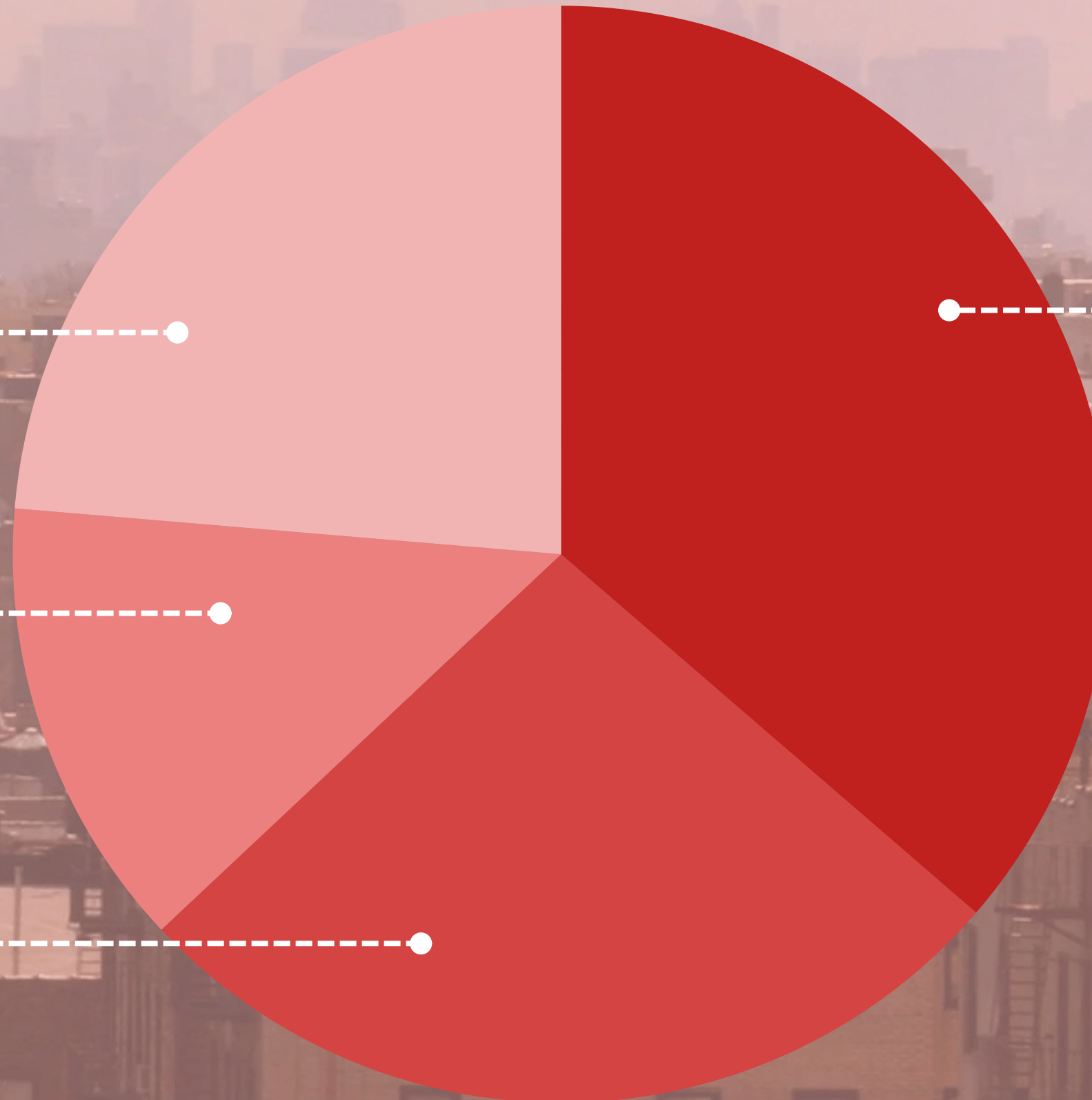
BUDGET

Equipment
\$710

Crew transport
\$400

Catering
\$800

***Equipment
truck***
\$1090



MEET THE CAST



CELESTE SENA AS “MAYLA”



Celeste is a first generation caribbean - american actress (AEA/ SAG-AFTRA) and a recent graduate of the Brooklyn College MFA acting program. She has appeared in several projects like Totino's Commercial with Pete Davidson, a short film called Rap Pack starring Emmy Winner Jharrel Jerome and A&E Networks show called UnderCover Life. She also made her onscreen debut in Hilly and Gully, an independent film by Patrice Johnson Chevannes.

ANTU YACOB AS “MS. JACKSON”



Antu Jacob is an actress, writer, producer and director (SAG-AFTRA). She received a BA degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and her MFA in Acting from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Her play On My Deen, premiered at InterAct Theatre as part of The Philly Cycle in 2025.

Antu's work can be seen on popular shows like Law and Order SVU and Netflix's Inventing Anna

ROMY BAVLI AS “JESSICA”



Romy Bavli is a New York –based actor who earned her B.A. in Theater, majoring in Acting, from UCLA’s School of Theater, Film, and Television. Born and raised in NYC, she trained at Stella Adler as a teen and is now part of Sheila Gray’s acting studio. Romy actively pursues theater, film, television, and animation voiceover, and is represented by Harriette Felix at Arise Artists Agency.

JAHIL HALL AS "TREY"



A graduate of the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, Jahlil honed his craft in Acting Technique for the Stage, Film, and Television. His journey into acting began at the age of 12, propelled by a passion to entertain and provide an escape from reality.

His recent accomplishments include playing the lead in 'Between Panic and Desire,' 'You're a Weirdo,' 'Annie Best' and 'The Comic Con Con Job' off Broadway.

MEET THE TEAM



DIRECTOR: PORTIA LUNDIE



Portia Lundie is a filmmaker currently pursuing her MFA in Writing and Directing Narrative Films at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She has worked in production on independent films and at marketing agencies in New York City for over a decade, bringing stories to life through visual media. Born and raised in NYC, her essays on pop culture have been published in The Washington Post and Screen Rant, and her crossword puzzles have appeared in The New York Times.

PRODUCER: ANSHOOL PRADHAN



Anshool Pradhan is a third year MFA candidate at Columbia University, studying Creative Writing and film directing. His film industry experience ranges from technical (special effects) roles on blockbuster Hollywood films, to directing indie shorts across three countries, to producing Columbia MFA/MA student short films. Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, his work highlights stories about legacy within peripheral communities.

DOP: BEN BONWITT-MARSH



Our Director of Photography, Ben Bonwitt-Marsh is a New York Based Cinematographer. He is currently in his senior year at NYU Tisch, studying Film and TV Production. Ben has experience shooting work ranging from commercials and music video work to independent shorts and NYU grad projects. Ben has worked on large blockbuster projects like HBO's House of the Dragon, where he worked alongside Portia as a DoP Shadow. He has been accepted as a friend of the Association of Camera Operators.



Our Associate Producer, Leslie Ye, is a screenwriter and native New Yorker. She tells stories for and about women of color that explore how power and its pursuit shapes our world. By day, she's a freelancer with over a decade of experience in technology, with expertise that spans growth, strategic communications, and content strategy.



Our Production Designer, Shilongane Nkoana is a designer from a rural area in the North of South Africa called Gachokoe. She specializes in performing arts technology; scenography, prop making, decor painting, costumes, lighting, makeup and textiles. She is an MFA candidate for Stage and Film Design.

Your paragraph text

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THANK YOU**

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