

19TH ANNUAL WHITAKER

ST. LOUIS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE



Washington University
Brown Hall Auditorium
July 12-14 / July 19-21, 2019

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19TH ANNUAL WHITAKER ST. LOUIS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE



The Ghost Who Walks, July 21

The Whitaker St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, an annual presentation of the nonprofit Cinema St. Louis, serves as the area’s primary venue for films made by local artists. The Showcase screens works that were written, directed, edited, or produced by St. Louis residents or films with strong local ties. The 19 film programs that screen at Washington University’s Brown Hall Auditorium from July 12-14 & 19-21 serve as the Showcase’s centerpiece. The programs range from full-length fiction features and documentaries to multi-film compilations of fiction, documentary, and experimental shorts. Many of the programs with feature-length films include post-screening Q&As with the filmmakers and/or subjects.

VENUES

Washington University’s Brown Hall Auditorium

Forsyth & Skinker boulevards
Film programs from July 12-14 & 19-21

Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room

6504 Delmar Blvd.
Closing-night awards party on July 21

TICKETS

Tickets for film programs from July 12-14 & 19-21 at Washington U.’s Brown Hall Auditorium are \$13 each; \$10 for students with valid and current photo ID and Cinema St. Louis members with valid membership cards. Admission to the closing-night awards party at Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room is free, but a donation is requested.

ONLINE TICKET SALES

There are no phone sales, but tickets may be purchased in advance online at Brown Paper Tickets: brownpapertickets.com. Search for the words “St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase.” Direct links for tickets to each film program are also on the Showcase website: cinemastlouis.org/st-louis-filmmakers-showcase. There is a small service charge per ticket. Purchasers should print out the receipt and pick up tickets at Brown Hall on the day of show. Online sales are limited to full-price tickets only. Cinema St. Louis member and student discounts can only be obtained in person at the box office because ID is required.

INFORMATION

For more information, contact Chris Clark at 314-289-4152 or chris@cinemastlouis.org.

CINEMA ST. LOUIS STAFF

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AWARDS JURY

Documentaries/Experimental: Dan Cross, Gayle Gallagher, Tiffany Greenwood, Jay Kanzler, Joshua Ray
Narratives: Peter Carlos, Andrew Millians, Tom Stockman, Lynn Venhaus, Wyatt Weed

SCHEDULE

Shorts in multi-film programs are listed alphabetically, not in the order screened. All programs are at Washington University’s Brown Hall Auditorium except for the closing-night awards party, which is held at Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room.

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FRIDAY, JULY 12



7:00 PM
DOC SHORTS 1:
(84 min.)

Back to China

Dawn Dixon, 12 min.
Isabella Dixon, who was raised in St. Louis, returns to China for the first time after being adopted 19 years ago.

Behind the Scenes with Kie

Erica Renee Walker, 4 min.
A profile of YouTuber Kiearra Fowler that explores her start on YouTube and her subsequent struggles and victories.

Black Girl Medicine

Nichole Thomas, 3 min.
Dr. Jennifer Moore discusses the experience of being a new black female doctor in St. Louis.

Bodies Like Oceans

Kat Cory, 13 min.
A dreamy portrait of photographer Shoog McDaniel, a self-described queer fat freak, whose work with fat bodies in nature transgresses reality.

The Deepest Cut

Alexandra Guillossou, 5 min.
A man with secondary-progressive MS struggles with his father's inability to cope, his mother's guilt about passing multiple sclerosis to him, and his fears for the future of his own two sons.

The Haircut

Britt Zuniga, 3 min.
An intimate look at a queer couple's time together.

Karen Banks: Wellness

Barry Neal & Lauren Preston, 2 min.
Karen Banks discusses the importance of mental health.

Markesha Cooper: My Story

Markesha Cooper, 4 min.
A film about overcoming low self-esteem and depression and using those difficulties as motivation to achieve goals.

No More Thoughts and Prayers

Angela Lamb, 20 min.
Interviews at the March for Our Lives with activists, including leaders of Moms Demand Action, who are fed up with gun violence and school shootings in the U.S. and demand change.

Past Future Tense

Angela Guo, 4 min.
An intimate visual exploration of disquietude through mundane and surreal moments.

Reflect

Makayla Hufziger, 4 min.
A combination of Julia Gillard's "Misogyny Speech" and contemporary political women's rights movements.

A Short Conversation with Christian Zehnder

Kriss Avery, 4 min.
Swiss singer Christian Zehnder, whose works span the fields of jazz and alpine music, attempts to infuse contemporary performance with the archaic resonances found in nature and traditional forms.

Take the Life Curve

Kriss Avery, 3 min.
A meditation on finding the proper limit on growth when consuming the Earth's finite resources.

These Jeans

Jade Harrell, 3 min.
15 -year-old Zaire grapples with the challenges of being a young woman in the age of #metoo.



9:15 PM
NARRATIVE SHORTS: DRAMA 1
(84 min.)

The Burdens They Carry

Alyssa Andrews, 12 min.
A Vietnam veteran suffering from PTSD struggles to overcome the burden of his hidden past.

The Choice

Jean Kinsella, 11 min.
Separated by time, four characters face pivotal choices that will change not only their lives but also the society in which they live.

Fade

Daniel Flood, 12 min.
As a dark figure draws near, Dorothy is enveloped by regret and memories.

Honey Would You Please?

Joseph & Stephen Tronicek, 17 min.
A troubled couple find an interesting way to reconcile after a particularly bad day.

Louis

Randy Shinn, 6 min.
A woman reflects on a night of betrayal.

A Really Nice Guy

Paul Hibbard & Christina Przada, 26 min.
A feminist perspective on male harassment told through the lens of the horror genre.

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Grizzell & Co. sends kudos to the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase for a season of enlightening works.



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SATURDAY, JULY 13



1:00 PM
Path of the Past

Lou Baczewski, 105 min.
The subject's grandson tells the incredible true story of Pocahontas, Ill.'s Louis "Louch" Baczewski, a tank-crew member who miraculously survived the perilous journey through all five major campaigns of World War II's European Theater. Part of the 3rd Armored Division, Baczewski and the other members of his Sherman tank crew stayed together from the hedgerow fighting in Normandy through the mud, cold, and snow of the Battle of the Bulge, eventually rolling into Germany itself. Of the 152 men in his company at the start of the trek, only Baczewski and 17 others survived.



4:00 PM
DOC SHORTS 2
(98 min.)

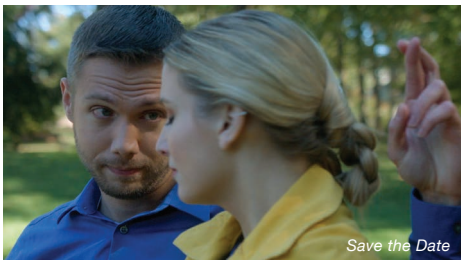
Bang the Drum: The Life and Death of a Small-Town Music Scene
Douglas Wicker, 19 min.
Using Farmington, Mo., as an illustrative example, the film explores how social media has affected local music scenes.

Interview with a Soldier
Edward Johnston, 9 min.
A film about a soldier's call to action, the hardships he has faced, and the lessons he's learned.

A Look Ahead: Our Energy Future in 20 Years
Joshua Kelley, 22 min.
The 14-year-old director talks to industry professionals about the potential environmental state of the country and St. Louis in 20 years.

Theatre of Pain
Zia Nizami, 33 min.
His back hurts, he's a new grandpa, but Jim Hofferth still wants to be king of the ring.

Why Do We Still Play Football?
Sean Kim & Michael Melinger, 15 min.
Examining the sport through medical, safety, and cultural lenses, Clayton High School journalists tackle the question of why football is still played.



6:30 PM
NARRATIVE SHORTS: COMEDY
(96 min.)

Burn It Down
Valentin Merlet, 11 min.
A young pyromaniac must decide whether to burn down his "dream house" or spare the old couple who lives inside.

Catlove
Gary Lobstein, 1 min.
This funny faux drug commercial was the winner of the 2019 edition of Cat Clips: A Competition in Cuteness!, a co-presentation of Animal House and Cinema St. Louis.

Final Shindig
Jackson Chintha, 13 min.
Two college kids embark on a journey to make things right using the wrong methods.

The Foghorn Trilogy
Mike Steinberg, 14 min.
Loosely based on the filmmaker's parents, this whimsical film tells the story of a romantic couple at three crucial stages in their lives.

Going My Way
Stephen Province, 24 min.
When Jody's car breaks down, Jack seemingly comes to her rescue.

Hey! Aren't You Garrett Crest?
Peter Bolte, 5 min.
When a man steps into a bar for some peace and quiet, he is accosted by some patrons who think they recognize him as a 1980s sitcom star.

Jerad Davis Throws a Dinner Party
Valerie Royer, 13 min.
An alien on Earth studying the habits of humans is forced to throw an unexpected dinner party.

The Literalist
Lori Ann Potts, 4 min.
A professor visits a coffee shop to grade papers but keeps getting distracted by other customers and her own imagination.

Save the Date
Jeffrey Samet, 6 min.
As Mark and Jill have their save-the-date photos taken, they begin to wonder if their wedding date can actually be saved.

Sodapop
Robert Cox, 5 min.
Two rival drink-shop owners feud over the business of a thirsty customer.



9:00 PM
NARRATIVE SHORTS: HORROR 1
(82 min.)

Assemblage
Ashley Seering, 6 min.
An artist invites an especially harsh critic to her studio for an exclusive preview of her latest work.

Blood Trails
Daniel Rothermich, 12 min.
A vampire detective is approached by a new client who claims that he's being threatened by vampires.

Flakka
Lacey "G Souldier" Turner, 43 min.
Years after the tragic death of Dr. James Flakka, who was killed by the citizens of Ferguson, eight friends go on a retreat to the property where the murder happened and find themselves targets of a vicious attack from something evil.

The Other Side
Tim M. Sullivan, 8 min.
After a fatal accident, a young man wanders through the afterlife in the hopes of escaping to the world of the living.

Storage
Devin P. Dillon, 6 min.
When a man starts a job at his stepfather's storage facility, a ghostly presence tries to scare him from the lot.

Thanatos
Shawn D. Holt, 7 min.
After an armed robbery goes wrong, Lee hides out from the police and finds himself greeted by death.

SUNDAY, JULY 14



1:00 PM
SHORTS BY EXPATRIATES
(86 min.)

Casualties
Holly Voges, 11 min.
A Vietnam veteran suffering from PTSD is haunted by the events of the past and struggles to know what is real in the present.

Dante Falls

Nancy Lin, 15 min.
Spunky teen Nova Dante is caretaker of the family cemetery and the ghosts that live within.

Hot Cake

Debi Bradshaw, 19 min.
It's 1986, and 15-year-old Shelly must decide whether to follow the example of her party-girl BFF or remain a good Jewish girl to please her father.

José and the Hawk

Tonjia Atomic & Rachel Jackson, 18 min.
Detective José Callahan and his partner — the Hawk, a hot-headed puppet — fight crime in the polite but slightly corrupt neighborhoods of Queen City.

Right Livelihood: A Journey to Here

Tricia Brouk, 13 min.
Buddhist Justin Von Bujdoss, who serves as chaplain at Rikers Island, one of the most dangerous prisons in the country, introduces meditation sessions to the corrections officers.

Until Forever (Hasta Siempre)

Katharine Mahalic, 10 min.
When the revolution in Nicaragua finally comes to an end, a wife and her husband struggle to find a way to pick up the pieces of their broken hearts.



3:15 PM Through the Cracks

Ben Scholle, 99 min.
In July 2002, Johnny Johnson was arrested and charged with the abduction and murder of 6-year-old Cassandra Williamson in Valley Park, Mo., and the effects of the crime continue to reverberate in the community. During the capital-murder trial, a proceeding clouded by questions of mental illness and competency, a juror described the killing as “the worst possible crime.” “Through the Cracks” seeks to answer the question: Does the worst possible crime deserve the worst possible punishment? Director Ben Scholle, a professor of digital cinema arts at Lindenwood University, co-directed “HairKutt,” which was named Best Documentary by the jury at the 2005 Showcase.



6:15 PM NARRATIVE SHORTS: DRAMA 2 (84 min.)

Diagnosis

Tanner Craft, 11 min.
A mother learns to deal with her son's diagnosis.

Enough

Jon Alexander, 8 min.
A man must come to terms with his emotionally and mentally abusive behavior.

The Expert

Ed Wiesner, 9 min.
A young woman does her job so well that higher-ups decide there isn't much for her to do anymore.

The Grave of My Father

Josh Herum, 10 min.
When two half-siblings meet for the first time at their dad's grave, something good emerges out of something bad.

Memory Box

Karl Shefelman, 11 min.
In this film — which is partially based on the novel “Mr. Wonderful” by writer/producer Daniel Blake Smith — a man's visit with a loved one leads to a shattering revelation.

Moments

Dean Clark, 6 min.
After reuniting with an old flame, a man realizes how different life would be if they had stayed together.

Safe & Happy

Richard Ulrich, 9 min.
An ex-cop who has long kept an explosive secret from his wife and the world is suddenly exposed at a critical moment.

Sweet Disposition

Ashleigh Brandmeyer, 9 min
A young shop worker is forced to recognize the wrongfulness of her prejudice toward cyborgs when she encounters one late on a winter night.

Then and Now

Jackson Olson, 11 min.
Three friends set out on a camping trip one last time before they part ways and move into the next chapter of their lives.



8:30 PM Road to the Pros

Earl McWilliams Jr., 78 min.
“Road to the Pros” offers an inside look at the St. Louis amateur boxing scene. Providing a lively and informative overview, the film interviews past and current trainers and a host of up-and-coming boxers of all races and ages.

FRIDAY, JULY 19



7:00 PM NARRATIVE SHORTS: DRAMA 3 (77 min.)

Camellia

Leonardo Panziera, 12 min.
Strange dreams of flowers inspire Milton to fulfill the ambition of his girlfriend to open a café.

Epicaste

Ryan Matthew Kneezle, 10 min.
An immortal mother raises a mortal child until it grows old in an Eden surrounded by the River Styx.

Give Me a Reason

Carleeka Kimmins, 9 min.
After overdosing, Giselle encounters her father, who committed suicide, in a realm between life and death.

Unwritten

Justin May, 14 min.
Two young lovers explore closure and personal growth through their passion for music.

The Wagon

Stacey Nation, 15 min.
Armed with only a small metal wagon and a heart full of hope, a woman ventures to overcome the past to find her future.

Who's Paisley? (An Expression of Love)

Richard Ulrich, 17 min.
A young manic songwriter must confront her conscience-stricken veteran father.



9:15 PM NARRATIVE SHORTS: SCI-FI/THRILLER (95 min.)

Abducted Anonymous

Nathan Karimi, 23 min.
The rich and powerful exploit the temptations of seven men.

Breaking Cycles

Brent Butler, 10 min.
A robotics engineer re-creates his late wife only to realize he has made a huge mistake.

The Exchange Student

Nathan Bowman, 5 min.
In this third-place winner of the Cinema at Citygarden Competition, a middle-school student embarks on a journey that leads to self-reflection and a newfound appreciation of nature.

George

Jess Stamper, 2 min.
George is called into human resources, and all is revealed.

The Lines We Cross

Jake Thebeau, 13 min.
Three survivors must navigate a barren world.

Rabbit's Foot

Dustin Carter, 16 min.
A man's dependency on a future device causes him to lose sight of reality.

The Shine

Tristian Montgomery, 4 min.
In this winner of the 2019 St. Louis Science Fiction & Fantasy Short Film Festival — based on a poem by Kendra Allen — a light shines brightly inside of black men, but certain forces fight hard to extinguish it.

Shipslog

Richard Taylor, 5 min.
Mitch Majors uses his spaceship's video log to chronicle a 28-year voyage to the distant Proxima Centauri system.

The Stranger

Damon Davis, 17 min.
In this surrealist allegory to the American Diaspora's return to the African continent, a stranger falls from the sky one day, in search of a castle and a queen that was shown to him in his dream.

SATURDAY, JULY 20



1:30 PM A New Leaf: Reimagining Henry Shaw's Museum

Paul Schankman, 59 min.
After more than a century of decline, Henry Shaw's museum is once again open to the public at the Missouri Botanical Garden (MoBOT) following a multi-million-dollar restoration. “A New Leaf: Reimagining Henry Shaw's Museum” chronicles the painstaking effort to bring Shaw's museum back to its original glory — a process that led to the discovery of treasures no one knew existed. In telling the story of the museum's restoration, the film also explores the history of MoBOT, showing how it evolved into one of the finest botanical gardens in the world.



3:30 PM Smile

Dan Steadman, 81 min.
Talented photographer Lucas Wilson (Raymond Roberson) is still processing his emotions after the death of his father two years ago and marking time at an unsatisfying job taking tourist pictures at Dutch Village in Holland, Mich. The dead-end nature of his current life is further underlined when his old high-school flame reappears and announces her engagement. Luckily for Lucas, he encounters an outspoken woman in a wheel-chair, Priya Virk (Preeti Jhawar), who prompts him to search for authenticity in his life. “Smile” is co-written and directed by the prolific Dan Steadman, who lives in the St. Louis area.

Sponsored by Now Talent



6:00 PM DOC SHORTS 3 (98 min.)

Broken Windows

Mabel Gan, 10 min.
In the wake of the Ferguson protests, artists come together to help the community heal.

Every Story Matters

Jessica Ambuehl, 4 min.
A profile of Sunshine Ministries, which has served the St. Louis inner city for more than 115 years.

If You Build It

Corey Ernst, 2 min.
A brief look at “Mad Dog,” emcee and resident of the Thaxton Speakeasy.

Music Passion Protest

Mike Pagano, 12 min.
Produced by teen apprentices at St. Louis ArtWorks, this film spotlights the intersection of music and activism in St. Louis.

No Comet: A 1969 Comet's Tale

Carol Jackson, 19 min.
A history of the director's 1969 Mercury Comet, which is often used by local filmmakers.

Our Sweet Friend Michael

Jade Harrell, 3 min.
34-year-old Michael, who is on the autism spectrum, has a teenager's energetic spirit.

St. Louis: A Citygarden Film

Dylan Kuehner, 4 min.
An entrant in the Cinema at Citygarden Competition, the video captures the diverse beauty of St. Louis.

St. Louis Great Divorce

Barry Neal, 7 min.
An examination of the ramifications of the divide between St. Louis city and county.

St. Louis Superman

Smriti Mundhra & Sami Khan, 28 min.
A profile of Bruce Franks Jr., a 33-year-old battle rapper, Ferguson activist, and recently resigned state representative who is known as Superman to his admirers.

Word on the Street: Delmar

Mike Gualdoni, 6 min.
A look at the origin of Delmar's street name and the history around its location.

Word Play

Brittanie A. Goldsby, 3 min.
The winner of the 2019 Cinema at Citygarden Competition provides an entertaining survey of several prominent artists in St. Louis' hiphop community.



8:30 PM NARRATIVE SHORTS: HORROR 2 (86 min.)

The Boogie Man

Micah Deeken, 7 min.
A young, determined dancer finds herself mixed up in a showdown with a mysterious presence behind a closet door.

The Murder of Evelyn Cross

Jordan Hageman, 10 min.
Detectives investigate the murder of pop star Evelyn Cross.

Scare Bear

Cory Byers, 10 min.
A woman looking for love takes a chance on the new guy in town and his giant stuffed bear.

Stained

Ben Manhanke, 22 min.
As a young man attempts to move on from the recent death of his father, he is stalked by a creature who feeds off of memories.

Victim.

Maxwell Tippetts, 16 min.
A tense thriller that demonstrates anyone can be a victim.

Waiting

Chris Grega, 8 min.
Two men find something unexpected in an old house.

Welcome

Scott T. McCall, 13 min.
Lori, who is watching her boss' house for the weekend, makes the mistake of welcoming a visitor inside when he asks to take photos of his boyhood home.

SUNDAY, JULY 21



1:00 PM
Prison Performing Arts: The Voice Within

Lisa Rhoden Boyd, 83 min.
In “The Voice Within,” inmates at the women’s prison in Vandalia, Mo., participate in a two-week Prison Performing Arts (PPA) workshop and take an unforgettable journey into the depths of each other’s lives. The film demonstrates the transformational power that creating art has for incarcerated individuals, offering a compelling validation of PPA’s long-standing mission. The documentary features portions of PPA’s first commissioned play, “Run-On Sentence,” and includes interviews with PPA’s late founder, Agnes Wilcox, playwright Stacie Lents, and PPA artistic director Christopher Limber. The film also movingly relates the stories of many of the imprisoned women and their mothers, sisters, and children. “The Voice Within” is directed by Lisa Rhoden Boyd, who was cited for Best Direction in the documentary category for “An American Tragedy” at last year’s Showcase.



3:30 PM
EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS
(76 min.)

Confound Acts
Katina Bitsicas, 4 min.
This three-channel video — which combines nature footage, metaphorical symbols, and interview and courtroom audio — explores the ways in which the murder of a man in Verona, Ky., affects the families of both the victim and the perpetrators.

Green Lemon Buggy
Jessica Adkins & Shane Devine, 3 min.
This third-place winner of the Cinema at Citygarden Competition is a paper-cut stop-motion video by the Opera Bell Band that tells the musical story of a car made of fruits and vegetables.

hiraeth
Ashley Seering, 1 min.
A remembrance of the director’s first visit to England in 2016.

I Wanna Be a Kid
Sam Nickelson, 3 min.
A subversive collection of children’s commercials for the real world.

If I Could
Zlatko Cosic, 3 min.
Minimal explorations of light and sound.

Illusive Echoes
Zlatko Cosic, 10 min.
Abstract explorations of light and sound.

Irradiance
Noah Ilbery, 3 min.
A meditation on space and how it came into existence.

Kadentsiya Tsvilizatsii (Cadence of Civilization)
Wyatt Fecht, 9 min.
Enigmatic visuals that allow multiple interpretations accompany composer Pierce Constanti’s score, which served as his senior thesis project.

Locomotive Organisms
Chris Aaron, 4 min.
Organisms are turned in all directions by the limpid wind of momentary sensation.

Matahari
Matias Wajner, 8 min.
A young man’s journey through heartbreak and mental-health issues to ultimate victory.

Meet the 4 Tracks — A Visual EP: In Harmonium
Ken Koste, 6 min.
Four short music videos by a band of cassette-tape puppets.

Menagerie
Ken Koste, 2 min.
A stop-motion film featuring abstract geometric renderings of plants, animals, and one human.

The Moon
Warren Reed, 3 min.
A hypothetical expression of Neil Armstrong’s inner child when he set foot on the moon.

Pizzicato
Zlatko Cosic, 3 min.
Minimal explorations of water and sound.

Story 3: Scenes 1-9
Zlatko Cosic, 5 min.
A multi-narrative experience in nine scenes.

Try Again
Daniel Flood, 5 min.
A disquisition on themes of environmentalism and commercialism.

Up Close & Personal
Jerod Welker, 4 min.
Twin children laugh, play, and express themselves.



6:00 PM
The Ghost Who Walks
Cody Stokes, 100 min.
Shot in St. Louis by former Showcase award-winner Cody Stokes, “The Ghost Who Walks” is a breathlessly paced ride through the hidden underbelly of the city. After five years in prison, Nolan (Garland Scott) is given his freedom, but his release required that he rat on his former boss — a betrayal that carries a death sentence. Nolan must now scramble to find his ex, Lena (Alexia Rasmussen), and the 5-year-old daughter he’s never met before Donnie (Gil Darnell) can track him down and kill him. Nolan’s quest is simple: Put his family back together and escape. But to reach the other side, Nolan is going to have to face his past in more ways than one. Can Nolan survive the night? Or is he already a ghost, doomed from the moment the prison doors opened?



8:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.
CLOSING-NIGHT AWARDS PARTY

Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room
Sponsored by Urban Chestnut Brewing Co.
Free (donations are accepted at the door)
Cinema St. Louis announces the Showcase films chosen for inclusion in the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival, and a jury gives awards to the best Showcase films. Complimentary Urban Chestnut beer and a cash bar are available for attendees who are 21 or older.



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