



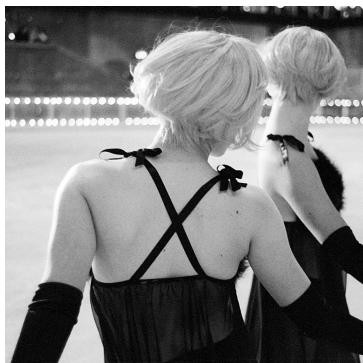
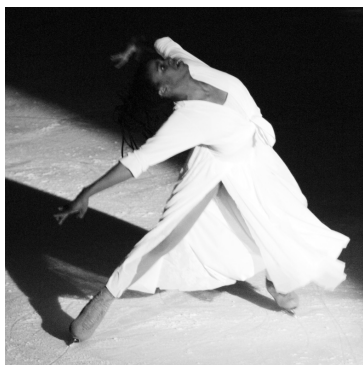
*Ice  
Theatre  
New York*

2007 Ice Theatre Benefit Gala  
Honoring Sarah Kawahara  
Volunteer Ice Angel Award to Peter Eurich  
October 29, 2007

Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers | Pier 61 | 23rd Street & the Hudson River



# Ice Theatre of New York



Ice Theatre of New York is an extraordinary organization, which has, for more than 20 years, changed the face of figure skating, by integrating the sensibilities of the contemporary dance, music and art worlds into performance skating.

Founded in 1984 by Moira North, Ice Theatre of New York is the nation's first not-for-profit ice dancing ensemble to be awarded grants as a dance company by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

In addition to pioneering skating as a performing art, Ice Theatre has also developed diverse performance programs to develop ensemble skaters and educational outreach programs to teach the basics of skating and develop new audiences for dancing on ice.

Outreach programs include the Lunchtime Concert Series at Rockefeller Plaza, and after-work Ice Concerts at Bryant Park, both free to the public: New Works and Young Artists Series at Riverbank State Park, dedicated to presenting present new works and providing free skating clinics for public school students from Harlem and Washington Heights.

**"Institutions like [Ice Theatre] are responsible for giving New York City the unparalleled artistic and cultural spirit that has made it the envy of the world."**

— **Vartan Gregorian,**

President of The Carnegie Corporation of New York, June 2007

**"Moira North has succeeded in establishing ice dance as a serious art form, in part by attracting grants to support leading modern dance choreographers...**

**Some pieces seem like they would be perfectly at home, at say, Jacob's Pillow."**

— **Jenny Hansell,** from "Learning How to Dance on Ice. A New Art" in Millerton News, April 2007

**"Jacquelyn Buglisi, of Buglisi Dance, calls skating 'another art in the world of movement.'**

**'I thought it was very interesting to try to bring my knowledge of movement through the Graham technique (to the ice).**

**It was an investigation of the creative process."**

— **Lois Elfman,** from "Fluid Movement" in Dance International Magazine, Winter 2006



# **2007 Ice Theatre Benefit Gala**

Honoring Sarah Kawahara  
Volunteer Ice Angel Award to Peter Eurich

**Monday, October 29, 2007 at 7pm**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/FOUNDER**

Moira North

**CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

David Liu

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Jirina Ribbens

**PR/EVENT PLANNING DIRECTOR**

Melissa Topakbashian

**THE ENSEMBLE**

Elisa Angeli, Curtis Chornopyski,  
Aidan Daley-Hynes, Tyrrell Gene,  
Suzanne McDonald, Jiri Prochazka,  
Alyssa Stith, Lance Vipond

**WITH**

David Liu

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Chenault Spence

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Carrie Furay

# GALA SKATING PROGRAM

(program subject to change)

## HEART

Choreography by Joanna Mendl Shaw

Costumes by Joanna Mendl Shaw

Music by Mouth Music

**Performed by Curtis Chornopyski, Aiden Daley-Hynes,  
Suzanne McDonald, Lance Vipond**

A quartet choreographed by renowned modern dance choreographer JoAnna Mendl Shaw.

Punchy and hip, this piece is a stunning example of modern movement on the ice.

Commissioned by New York State Council on the Arts

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## 2:1

Choreography by David Liu

Costumes by Katherine McDowell

Music: *Air* by J.S. Bach

**Performed by Elisa Angeli, Alyssa Stith and Tyrrell Gene**

The relationship between what one imagines if there were two.

Commissioned by Ice Theatre of New York

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## MEDITATION

Choreography by Douglass Webster

Costumes by Karen Young

Music: *Opening, Glassworks* by Phillip Glass

**Performed by Aiden Daley-Hynes, Suzanne McDonald,  
Jiri Prochazka, Lance Vipond**

Imagery of the shifts of wind and quiet whirl of water eddies  
are suggested in the work's uninterrupted flow of movement.

Commissioned by Ice Theatre of New York

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## MI ANDALUCIA

Choreography by Peter DiFalco

Costumes by Ice Theatre of New York

Music: Spanish musical selections Olé, Olé, Olé, Reina and Torrero

**1. JALEO performed by Elisa Angeli, Aiden Daley-Hynes,  
Suzanne McDonald, Alyssa Stith**

**2. GITANO performed by David Liu**

**3. OLE MANOLETE performed by Elisa Angeli and Jiri Prochazka**

“Mi Andalucia,” a three-part work that joins elements of Andalusian dance, flamenco and bull fighting. The first section, “Jaleo,” radiates with the joy of dancing; “Gitano,” the second section, a solo for David Liu, embodies the sorrow and exuberance of flamenco; the work concludes with “Olé Manolete,” which expresses a bull fighter’s intense fears.

Commissioned by Ice Theatre of New York and Gertrude Vanderbilt Endowment

## ONCE AGAIN

Choreography by Heather Harrington

Costumes by Ice Theatre of New York

Music by Cam Millar

**Performed by Alyssa Stith and Tyrrell Gene**

The duet examines the interplay of male-female dominance and dependence. Alternating between tenderness and indifference edged with a darker emotion of hate, the couple plays a game reminiscent of circling flamenco passion play that eventually comes to a resolution.

Commissioned by New York State Council on the Arts

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## AFTER ALL

Choreography by Twyla Tharp

Costumes by Karen Young

Music: *Concerto for Trumpet in B Flat* by Tomaso Albinoni

**Performed by David Liu**

Twyla Tharp's "After All," originally choreographed in 1976 by Tharp for Olympic skater and ice dance pioneer John Curry, will be performed by David Liu, himself a former Olympic skater. Liu's performance marks the first time that any skater but Curry has performed the work. Filled with daring twists, turns, Tharp's sly wit and signature footwork, the seven-minute, nonstop solo marked Tharp's first work for ice.

Commissioned for restaging by Ice Theatre of New York

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## PULL

Choreography by David Liu

Costumes by Jussara Lee

Music: Thomas Newman's film score

**Performed by Elisa Angeli, Curtis Chornopyski,  
Suzanne McDonald, Alyssa Stith, Lance Vipond**

Improvised responses to the physical and mental challenges posed by the ice to form the core of the lyrical work.

Commissioned by Ice Theatre of New York

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**ELISA ANGELI** (Performer) born in Milan December 25, 1979. She has skated since she was 6 years old. She skated freestyle from ages 8 to 10 years old and then turned to ice dancing. Elisa represented Italy in junior ice dancing from 1995 to 1997. Her best result was at the European UISP Championship in Budapest 1997 where she placed 3rd. Elisa represented Italy in senior ice dancing from 1998 to 2001. Her best results were 3rd at National Championship in 1999-2000 and 3rd at European Cup in Tallinn in February 2000. After that she skated shows with Barbara Fusarpoli as choreographer and other performances in Italy and Europe. Elisa performed with Ice Theatre in 2005 season and took part in the Residency last April in Saugerties.

**CURTIS CHORNOPYSKI** (Performer) grew up in Vita Manitoba, Canada. He trained at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton, Alberta. He was a member of Canada's Junior National team and a medalist at Canada's Winter Games. Curtis started his professional career with Disney on Ice in 1994 and was a principal for 7 years. During this time he performed on five different continents. After Disney, Curtis was a skater for the Royal Caribbean International on the Navigator of the Seas. This past summer Curtis was a soloist for Woodstock Ice Productions. He joined Ice Theatre this fall and is also a certified personal trainer.

**AIDAN DALEY-HYNES** (Performer) is from Burtonsville, MD. She started her ensemble skating experience by performing with *The Potomac Ice Theatre*. She then trained at The Chesapeake Skating School and has earned a gold medal in Moves in the Field. She has competed in numerous *International Theatre on Ice Competitions* and earned one gold and two silver medals. She joined the company in 2002 and performed with the company in *Dance Visions on Ice*.

**CARRIE DELL FURAY** (Production Manager) is delighted to return to Ice Theatre after spending the last two years at sea as Senior Production Manager for Princess Cruises. Now a full-time resident of New York, Furay has worked with Ice Theatre since 2001 on projects such as *Fashions on Ice*, *Dance Visions on Ice*, and 2004's *Gala and Home Show*. She would like to thank Moira and Jirina for their continuing dedication to this wonderful company.

**PETER DIFALCO** (Choreographer) master teacher of the tango and other ballroom dances, has a rich and varied career as a dancer, choreographer and dance company director for more than 40 years. DiFalco started out as an ethnic dancer working with La Meri at Jacob's Pillow. At Ted Shawn's invitation, he was a member of the pillow's faculty from 1946-53, teaching and dancing with luminaries such as Ruth St. Denis, José Limón and Anthony Tudor, both during the summers and regular seasons. From 1956-59, he directed his own DiFalco Dance Theatre, which traveled throughout the United States and appeared frequently on TV. He is a coach, choreographer and instructor for some of the world's best-known competition and exhibition couples, and resides in North Carolina.

**TYRRELL GENE** (Performer) started dancing at the age of three in his hometown of Wenatchee, WA. Dancing, which was initially a form of therapy for his stroke-induced paralysis, led him into figure skating. For the past 13 years, Gene has trained as an ice dancer and was a 5-time national competitor. He has continued his cross-training with his studies and performances of jazz, ballet, modern and ballroom dancing. He has been with Ice Theatre for five years and performed in *Dance Visions on Ice* this past season.

**HEATHER HARRINGTON** (Choreographer) graduated from Boston University with a degree in psychology. She then moved to New York City and danced with the Doris Humphrey Repertory Company, the Martha Graham Ensemble, the Pearl Lang Dance Theater, and the Bella Lewitzsky Dance Company. Her choreography has been presented by various venues including the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Sitalines Series, where she choreographed and performed an onsite piece, "*Giscard Games*," on the stairs of Federal Hall Memorial on Wall Street. Harrington has also created pieces for Danspace Project's City/Dans series and the Toronto Finge Festival. As a figure skater, Harrington has performed, taught and choreographed for Ice Theatre of New York. In 2001, she received a grant from the New York State

Council on the Arts (NYSCA) through Ice Theatre of New York to choreograph a new piece, "Once Again." This repertory piece was performed in the Company's Home Season at Sky Rink and in the Concert Series at The Rink at Rockefeller Plaza. Harrington also created a haunting work, "The Lottery", commissioned by Ice Theatre of New York. She is currently a coach at Sky Rink and Figure Skating in Harlem. Danspace Project presented Harrington's full-length evening piece, Devil's Playground, in 2005 at St. Mark's Church.

**JUSSARA LEE** (Costume Design) With her traditional simplicity and understated elegance, Jussara Lee delivers a much-needed respite from the restlessness and obsessive ostentation too familiar today. She creates with a purity of thought and design, producing timeless pieces that emphasize fit with fine custom tailoring and quality fabrics. Discarding pretense and artifice, Lee infuses her work with dignity, and her classic creations are animated with a modern originality that transcends category and period. Lee's pieces startle with subtle sophistication that radiate charisma, substantial in their nod to history while invigorating with their fresh take on tradition. A required sensibility flows throughout her work and her unaffected approach and graceful shapes highlight the impeccable form of her cloths.

**DAVID LIU** (Co-Artistic Director) was born in Taiwan, immigrated to the United States at the age of six and began studying dance and figure skating at the age of eight. He auditioned for New York City Ballet's School of American Ballet (SAB) and was accepted on full scholarship, under the tutelage of Richard Rapp and Andre Kramerevsky. George Balanchine promoted him to the first "Special Class" at the SAB under the intensive training of the late Stanley Williams. After finishing his dance training at SAB, David pursued his skating career and competed at three Olympic Games for his native country, Taiwan. He teaches, choreographs and performs in both skating and dance. He has performed and given workshops and intensive classes in the United States, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland. David has choreographed programs for skating luminaries such as Brian Boitano, Lu Chen, Midori Ito, Nicole Bobek, Rosalynn Summers, and for major television specials including Kurt Browning's Gotta Skate, Divas on Ice with Katarina Witt, PBS' An Evening with Champions, and NBC's Rockefeller Center Christmas Specials. In 2002, Ice Theatre received a commissioning grant from New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) for a collaborative work for David Liu and choreographer JoAnna Mendl Shaw. In April 2004, David was invited to China where he created the ice gala "Spherical." In June, 2004, the world premiere of David's latest dance choreography, Visual Reference, part of H.T. Chen's Ear to the Ground project was presented by the Mulberry Street Theatre in New York City. Liu has also choreographed for dance companies such as City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, and Singapore Dance Theatre. Francis Mason of WQRX Radio, reviewing Ice Theatre's performance, called David, "Nijinsky on ice."

**JOANNA MENDEL SHAW** (Choreographer) is a New York-based dance choreographer who established her career in the Pacific Northwest, where she founded and directed a large professional dance company, taught on the faculty at the University of Washington and Cornish College and played a leadership role in arts advocacy for the Northwest. Relocating to New York in 1991, Shaw has national gained recognition for her large-scale site specific works and collaborative projects with athletes. The recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Choreographic Fellowships, Shaw has choreographed for ice dancers, in-line skaters, gymnasts and equestrians. Her dance work has been presented at numerous NYC venues and commissioned by dance companies throughout the States and in Europe. In 1998 Shaw launched The Equus Projects, a performance company that merges dance and equestrian artistry. The company has created large commissioned works for The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and Virginia Commonwealth University and has presented its work at museum sites and equestrian centers and will create a new work for the 2007 opening of the UC/Davis Equestrian Center. Shaw currently teaches in New York City, serving on the faculty at The Juilliard School and in the Ailey /Fordham BFA program. She has taught at Tisch/New York University, Montclair State University and Mount Holyoke College. International teaching and choreographic commissions include residencies in Hungary, Japan, Korea, Canada, Yugoslavia, Scotland, Wales and coaching and teaching for the Swiss Gymnastic Federation. Shaw holds a BA from Mount Holyoke College and an MFA in Dance from the University of Utah. She is a Certified Movement Analyst in the Laban/Bartenieff work.

**SUZANNE McDONALD** (Performer) currently trains in NJ under the tutelage of two-time Olympic Gold medalist, Evgeny Platov. She is the 2004 Senior Ladies Eastern Sectional Champion and is the current Senior Ladies North Atlantic Regional Bronze medalist. She also recently completed the Wine Spectator's ABC's of Wine course.

**KATHERINE McDOWELL PATTERSON** (Costume Design) designed the costumes for several MMDG works including *Foursome*, *Kolam*, *Something Lies Beyond the Scene*, *Rock of Ages*, *Marble Halls*, *Cargo*, and *Candleflowerdance*. She has also designed for the José Limón Company, Singapore Dance Theater, Ben Munisteri Dance Projects, Ice Theater of New York, and American Ballet Theater Studio Company, among others. Her work has been seen at The New York State Theater, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Joyce Theater, Whitney Museum at Altria, Harvard Dance Center, Jacob's Pillow, Saint Mark's Church, and Dance Theater Workshop. McDowell has B.F.A. from Cooper Union.

**MOIRA NORTH** (Artistic Director/Founder) designated one of the 25 Most Influential Names in Figure Skating by International Figure Skating Magazine in 1998 and again in 2003, has been the driving force in the development of figure skating as a performing art. She and partner Patrick Dean skated Ice Theatre's first work, a collaboration with European dance choreographer Marc Bogaerts, which won them first place in the Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain. In her subsequent work as Artistic Director of Ice Theatre, Moira has continued to integrate the work of dance and performance artists into the repertory of ice choreography. She has introduced her skaters to renowned dancers for off ice dance and movement classes. The on ice ensemble classes have been taught by Olympic skater John Curry among others. Moira's other credits include teaching actress Ileana Douglas to skate for her role in the film *To Die For*; teaching and choreographing a skating scene in the film *The Preacher's Wife* with Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington; choreographing five productions of *Montreal Fashions on Ice* for the Quebec Delegation at Rockefeller Plaza; and choreographing the opening ceremonies for both the National Hockey League All-Stars Game and World Cup Hockey. She also served as creative consultant for Arts & Entertainment's *Winter Solstice on Ice*, a television special aired.

**JIRINA RIBBENS** (Executive Director) joined the Ice Theatre of New York staff in December 2004, after serving on the Board since the founding of the company. Over the past 20 years Jirina has worked in a variety of positions in the entertainment and sports industries, including as Olympic sports consultant and producer for seven Olympic Winter Games and two Summer Games. In 2002 she was honored with the 2002 Sports Emmy for Outstanding Live Sports Special as Associate Producer for NBC for the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games. During her career at Candid Productions she produced and managed televised events worldwide with two-time Olympic Figure Skating Champion Dick Button. Jirina holds a Master of Arts Degree in Foreign Languages from the State University of Antwerp, Belgium and a coaching certification in figure skating and artistic roller skating from the Coaches Training Academy in Cologne, Germany. She is fluent in seven languages. Jirina is happily married to Christopher Archer and they reside in Harlem.

**CHENAULT SPENCE** (Lighting Designer) is renowned throughout the world as lighting designer for opera, ballet and theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, with which he has been a lighting designer for thirty five years and the Opera Company of Philadelphia for which he received two Emmy awards for *The Damnation of Faust* and *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Luciano Pavarotti. He is a resident lighting designer for, in addition to The Ice Theatre of New York, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Dance Brazil, New York Baroque Dance Company and Saeko Ichinohe Dance Company, and the Long Leaf Opera Company. His work has also been seen with Lyon Opera Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem, Washington Ballet, Erick Hawkins, Jose Limon, Bat-Dor Dance Company of Israel and The National Ballet of Iran and other opera, theatre and ballet companies throughout the world.

**ALYSSA STITH** (Performer) was born and raised in West Point, NY and spent the majority of her formative years on the ice as a competitive figure skater. She began dancing in 1996 while touring with Living the Dream Theatre Company and earned her BA with Distinction in Dance from Ohio State University in 2000. Since then she has been striving to translate dance to ice while training and performing in both areas. On the ice, Alyssa has been performing regularly with Ice Theatre of New York since 2000 and she



was featured in *Dance Visions on Ice* this past season. She was a principal in Rory Flockhart's *Ebony on Ice!* *Soul Spectacular on Ice*. Off the ice, she has performed with several modern dance companies. She holds a Masters Degree in dance from New York University. Alyssa currently resides in Denmark.

**TWYLA THARP** (Choreographer) In 1965 Ms. Tharp formed Twyla Tharp Dance and has created over 125 works to date. She has also choreographed for ABT, Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, Boston Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance and Martha Graham Company. Ms. Tharp's Broadway credits include *When We Were Very Young*, *The Catherine Wheel*, *Singin' In The Rain* and *Movin' Out*. She collaborated in film on *Hair*, *Ragtime*, *Amadeus*, *White Nights* and *I'll Do Anything*. Ms. Tharp is the author of two books: "Push Comes To Shove" and "The Creative Habit: Learn It And Use It For Life."

**MELISSA TOPAKBASHIAN** (PR and Event Planning Assistant) began skating at age 9 in Philadelphia with National Russian Competitor and St. Petersburg Ballerina, Yelena Sergeeva. She was a competitive skater for 15 years and competed through college. She graduated in 2004 from the University of Delaware with a degree in Communication and Business. From there she tour the world for 3 years with Disney on Ice Princess Classics followed by a show this past summer at Cedar Point with Woodstock Ice Productions. With an interest in PR for skating, she joined the Ice Theatre this past fall as a PR/Event Planning assistant and a skater.

**LANCE VIPOND** (Performer) is an 8-time Canadian National Championships competitor and a 2-time National Team member. Competitive highlights include the 1991 World Junior Championships in Budapest Hungary and winning the gold medal at the 1989 Piruetten competition in Oslo Norway. Lance is an accomplished coach/choreographer who has worked with 2002 Olympic Gold Medalists Jamie Sale and David Pelletier, and young Canadian competitors. In 1999 Lance graduated from the MacEwan Theatre Arts program in Edmonton Canada and has studied acting at Sir Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts in England. He has appeared on stage as a member of Canadian Actors' Equity in such musicals as *Singin' In The Rain*, *The Life, Oklahoma!*, and as Tulsa in *Gypsy*. Last spring he had the opportunity to combine his love for skating and acting when he originated the role of Dean in *Cold As Ice*, an original musical starring 1994 Olympic champion Oksana Baiul, at the Gateway Playhouse in Bellport Long Island. Lance is also readying his first CD of original music, entitled "Here", to be released in early 2008.

**DOUGLAS WEBSTER** (Choreographer) has been connected with the Company for 16 years and he has created many critically acclaimed repertory works. Doug has been hailed by critic Elizabeth Kendall as one of the finest ice skating choreographers. Doug has worked on the creative team of 11 productions that are now currently running around the world including Disney's acclaimed *High School Musical*, *The Ice Tour*, *Stars on Ice*, and *Holiday on Ice*. He choreographed the Ice Theatre of New York segments for the A&E production *Winter Solstice on Ice*, the opening and closing of the first *Stars, Stripes, and Skates* benefit at Madison Square Garden, and the opening of the *Sun Valley Skating Show*. Douglas had an extensive career as a professional skater and had the opportunity to skate in many shows with luminaries such as John Curry, Scott Hamilton, and many others. He is honored to have spent his lifetime in this wonderful sport and would like to express his gratitude to all the skaters he has worked with.

**KAREN YOUNG** (Costume Design) Karen Young designs costumes for numerous dance, theater, and video art projects in New York. Costume design credits for video art include: David Michalek's "Slow Dancing" recently on view at Lincoln Center, Eve Sussman & the Rufus Corporation's "89 Seconds at Alcazar" and "The Rape of the Sabine Women", Toni Dove's "Spectropia", and Matthew Barney's "Cremaster 5". Design for dance includes recent projects with: Elisa Monte Dance, Philadanco, Andrea Haenggi/AMDaT, Keely Garfield, Dusan Tynek Dance Theatre, New York Baroque Dance Company, Noémie Lafrance's "Agora", and the Martha Graham Dance Company, where she has been a costumer for many years.

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Moira North

**Co-Artistic Director**

David Liu

**Executive Director**

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and corporate supporters for their generosity.**

A full list of our donors will be published in the upcoming newsletter.

“To measure the man,  
measure his heart.”

— Malcolm Forbes

Forbes salutes Ice Theatre for your contributions  
to the sport and your grace on the ice.

In business and in life, greatness takes heart.

**ForbesLife**



## *SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT* to these individuals and others whom we might have missed

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