The 26th Annual NUTCRACKER Ballet

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26th Annual Nutcracker Ballet



DECEMBER 9, 2023 7:00 DECEMBER 10, 2023 2:00 WYNONA THOMPSON AUDITORIUM CODY | WYOMING

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RMDT STAFF

Executive Director Public Relations & Marketing Director Elizabeth Fernandez Jennifer Kaelberer

Mission Statement

RMDT is a 501-c3 nonprofit. Our mission is to introduce young people to the performing arts; encourage cultural development through public performance; and to inspire young performers to learn and strive for excellence in technique, self-discipline, self-confidence, and artistic expression.

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Welcome to the 26th Annual Nutcracker



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The holiday season never feels like the holiday season to me until The Nutcracker weekend. With months of preparation, Nutcracker weekend is highly anticipated by those in the cast, those behind the scenes, and of course, by myself. The twenty-sixth Nutcracker will not disappoint with new additions to our scenery, costumes, changes in choreography, and amazing dancing.

This weekend goes by in a flash and soon it will be time to audition for our twenty-seventh season. Back-

stage dancers are touching up their make-up and hair, making sure their costumes are laid out for quick costume changes, quickly going through parts of their dances or solos that make them the most nervous, and talking about what roles they want next season. You would think after months of rehearsals no one would want to talk about next season, but Nutcracker transcends this idea, making it the most magical performance of all.

This season, there are FIVE seniors. It is so rewarding to have a graduating class of this size. It's not easy to dance through your senior. Dance training is difficult, time consuming, and requires an immense amount of focus and discipline. Anna, Isabel, Keira, Kinsley, and Tyra have shown they have the amazing character and fortitude to accomplish this goal and I am so proud of them. Five graduating dancers leave a big hole that will no doubt be noticed, but I know there are great dancers ready to take the reins. They have big shoes to fill as these graduating dancers are not only amazing dancers, but they are kind, serious but fun, disciplined but don't get bent out of shape too easily, work well with others, and have a clear understanding of dance technique and performing. These characteristics have made them a unique class and one that I will miss immensely. I have no doubt you will enjoy watching them on stage as I have enjoyed them for the past many years.

Thank you for choosing to celebrate this wonderful season with us. Your support and generosity are truly magnificent. The dancers look forward to sharing their hard work and dedication with you, and I hope this performance will inspire you to look forward to each and every Nutcracker season as we do at RMDT.

There are so many to thank for the success of this production. To our board of directors for upholding the vision and mission of RMDT. To the RMDT staff and the many countless hours Jenni gives, to my mother, Cynthia, brother, Erich, Charles and Casey, Jessica for her assistance with rehearsals, costumes, and anything else needed, assistant teachers, and most of all to my husband, Ryan, for his many countless hours spent on RMDT projects, and continued support in many other ways.

To our many benefactors: your kindness and good will inspires us every day! Without you, we would not have the opportunity to experience the gifts the arts bring to all our lives. Thank you!

Elizabeth Jerrende

SPECIAL THANKS

To the dancers, parents, and volunteers, a very special thank you for your continued support and dedication to RMDT and The Arts.

To my returning alumni, Brittany, Jessica, and Susan, thank you for continuing to share your love of dance and for showing that we don't have to stop dancing because we graduated from High School.

To the RMDT production staff, Jenni and Erich, Brittany and Hunter, my husband, my mother, and Thompson Portrait Studio, for always supporting RMDT regardless of circumstance.

Heartfelt thanks to Amber May, Carolyn Sharp, and Keri sharp for your countless hours of mending, sewing, and steaming costumes.

Thank you to the following for the many ways in which you helped RMDT's Nutcracker this season: Keely Bell, Big Horn Radio Network, Alicia Campbell, Cody Chamber, Willow Fernandez, Nickoli Kumm, Kintla LaFevers, Sienna May, Erica Mayhugh, Drew Murray, Jessica McNeil, Kinsley Merritt, Andrew Rossi, and The Village Shop.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to this year's top fundraisers, Rebekah Dallman and Danica Kern, who will be featured in special roles in this

year's performance.

NO PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEOING ALLOWED DURING PERFORMANCES

ARTISTIC PRODUCTION -

COMPOSER Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Elizabeth Fernandez CHOREOGRAPHER Elizabeth Fernandez LIGHTING DESIGNER Charles Houghton TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Casey Kearns VIDEOGRAPHY Cactus Productions COSTUME DIRECTOR Elizabeth Fernandez COSTUME DESIGN Joyce Case, Linda Rogers, Elizabeth Fernandez COSTUME DESIGN Joyce Case, Linda Rogers, Elizabeth Fernandez COSTUME CARE Amber May, Caroline Sharp, Kerri Sharp SCENERY AND BACKDROP DESIGN Casey Kearns POSTER/COVER DESIGN Thompson Portrait Studio PROGRAM Jennifer Kaelberer LOBBY PIANIST Shaun Balch

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Story of The Nutcracker

ACT 1

It is Christmas time, and Uncle Drosselmeyer has invited many close friends and relatives, including his favorite niece Clara, to attend his Christmas celebration. As Drosselmeyer is on his way through the forest to his party, he meets The Enchanted Fairy, and her corp. The Enchanted Fairy offers Drosselmeyer a magical nutcracker doll, a gift from the Sugar Plum Princess. Understanding the Nutcracker is enchanted, he readily accepts the gift. Knowing it will turn any dream into a wonderful journey, he rejoices as he imagines giving the doll to his favorite niece, Clara. During the party Drosselmeyer showers the children with gifts and entertains his guests with dancing butterflies, gingerbread, candy canes, and dolls.

After Clara arrives at the party, Drosselmeyer finds the perfect moment to reveal the nutcracker doll. Clara adores her nutcracker and dances with him gleefully. While most of Clara's guests are excited about her new gift, one is jealous, her cousin Fritz. Because of his jealousy, he causes an accident, breaking the Nutcracker. A tearful Clara is consoled by Drosselmeyer, who magically fixes the doll, and the party continues. As the party ends, the children reluctantly leave for home except Clara, who stays behind to play with her new toy. As she is playing with the doll, she falls asleep.

Clara dreams of her "magical" nutcracker doll and the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy. Her dream begins with the soldiers battling the nasty Rat King and his pack of rats. Clara's Nutcracker "saves the day" as she uses the toy to battle the Rat King. She is awe-struck when she meets the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. They dance together and soon they enter the beautiful Land of Snow where snowflakes twirl in the snow-covered forest.

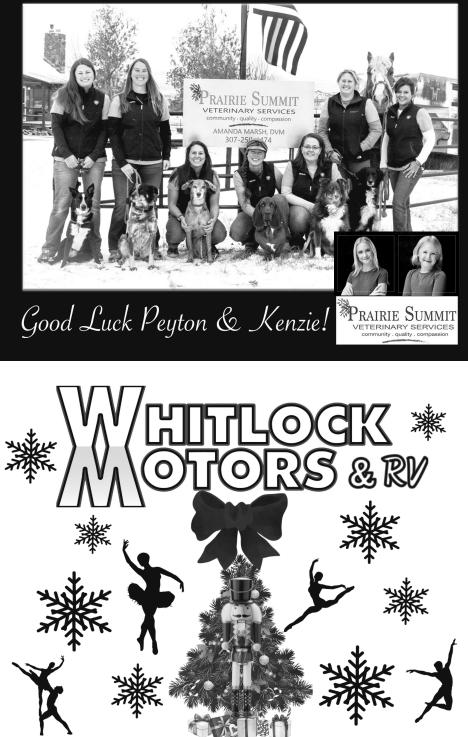
INTERMISSION

ACT 2 Clara enters a magical land, The Land of Sweet's, where she meets confections from all over the world such as Spanish chocolate, Arabian coffee, Chinese tea, European marzipan, and witnesses the beautiful pas de deux of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. As the dancing ends, Clara awakens. She finds her nutcracker doll beside her and dances with it one final time.

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR DANCERS & ENJOYMENT OF OTHERS REMAIN SEATED DURING SCENES BUT PLEASE EXCUSE YOURSELF IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE A YOUNG CHILD THAT BECOMES DISRUPTIVE.

FLASHING LIGHTS, FOG, EXPLOSIONS, AND SNOW EFFECTS WILL OCCUR AT TIMES DURING THE PERFORMANCE

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FOREST SCENE

FAIRIES: Colbie Beemer, Mary-Milum DuBose, Ellie Dunning, Antabella Harwood, Rebekah McNair, Izabella Rose, Colette Sporer, Jordyn Williams

ENCHANTED FAIRY: Kylee Blankenship

SUGAR PLUM Princess: Isabel Taylor

DROSSELMEYER: Andrew Rossi

PARTY SCENE -

PARTY CHILDREN:

Giovanna Barringer, Kelby Brown, Elena Canales, Sasha Colling, Oakleigh Johnsey, Devyn Kaelberer, Mackenzie Marsh, Charlie Troll

PARENTS: Jaelin Bigelow, Alaya Mercer, Presley Thompson

FRITZ: Carter Brown

FRITZ'S FRIENDS: Bodhi Cronebough, George Scott, Jackson Tatum, Drew Wlaschin

PEPPERMINT LEADS: Cali Allen, Madison Dallman, Hayden Grant, Daelyn Kaelberer

CANDY CANES: Blakely Ancell, Liliana Dzikowicz, Sophia Straw, Aspyn Williams

BATTLE SCENE

RAT KING: George Scott

NUTCRACKER: Forrest Deans

RATS: Carter Brown, Bodhi Cronebaugh, Jackson Tatum, Drew Wlaschin

GIRL SOLDIERS: Emma Allen, Kaydence Blankenship, Audrey Brown, Aliyah Geving, Pheona Hodson, Peyton Marsh, Scarlett Tatum, Luci Underwood, Shaye Vieira, Emma Vizcaino

SNOW SCENE -

Susan Bales, Kylee Blankenship, Anneliese Croft, Willow Fernandez, Keira Jackson, Kintla LaFevers, Christina Maslak, Erica Mayhugh, Jessica McNeil, Kinsley Merritt, Tyra Morris, Brittany Schneider, Isabel Taylor

CAVALIER: Randy Pacheco

FLOWER PETALS: Peyton Binkley, Danica Kern, Amelia Schneider, Caprice Straw, Mercedes Wages, Katherine White

GINGERBREAD: Alise Hobbs, Danica Kern, Amelia Schneider, Kathrine White

CLARA: Tyra Morris

SMALL TOY DOLLS: Claire Dollard, Heidi Dollard

BUTTERFLIES: Ronnie Audevart, Rebekah Dallman, Sadie Sletten, Caprice Straw, Christiana Vieira, River Woods

COLUMBINE DOLLS: Anneliese Croft, Jessica McNeil, Tyra Morris

PIRATES: Forrest Deans, Christina Maslak, Sara Parker

JOKER: Kintla LaFevers

HORSEMEN: Carter Brown, Forrest Deans, George Scott, Drew Wlaschin

INTERMISSION

ACT 1



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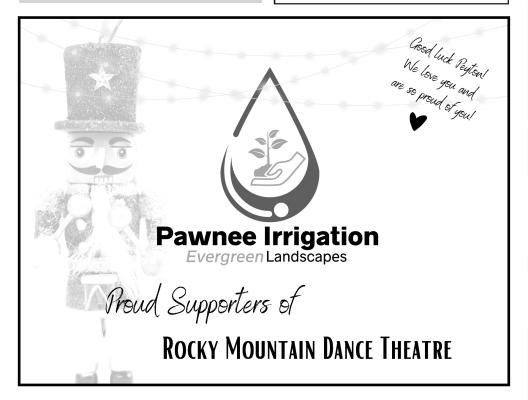
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ANGELS: Peyton Binkley, Alise Hobbs, Sadie Sletten, Mercedes Wages

MINTS: Colbie Beemer, Mary-Milum DuBose, Ellie Dunning, Antabella Harwood, Oakleigh Johnsey, Rebekah McNair, Izabella Rose, Colette Sporer, Jordyn Williams

GREETERS: Sasha Colling, Liliana Dzikowicz, Sophia Straw, Aspyn Williams

ELVES: Giovanna Barringer, Kelby Brown, Elena Canales, Devyn Kaelberer, Mackenzie Marsh, Charlie Troll

SPANISH CHOCOLATE LEAD: Willow Fernandez

SPANISH CHOCOLATE CORP: Macie Caldwell, Madison Dallman, Hayden Grant, Sienna May

ARABIAN COFFEE LEADS: Keira Jackson, Isabel Taylor

ARABIAN CORP: Blakely Ancell, Ronnie Audevart, Rebekah Dallman, Heidi Dollard, Alise Hobbs, Christiana Vieira, River Woods

CHINESE TEA LEAD: Anneliese Croft

DRAGON: Cali Allen, Madison Dallman, Hayden Grant, Daelyn Kaelberer, Sara Parker RUSSIAN LEADS: Macie Caldwell, Forrest Deans, Sienna May

KISSES:

12/9: Avalyn Espinoza, Mia Piazza, Colt Phillips, Lark Wages, Sarah Williams, Connor Wlaschin

12/10: Aria Hansen, Lilyana Hopper, Jenna Jalout, Twylah Leong, Evelyn Templin, Hadley Wagner

MARZIPAN LEAD: Kinsley Merritt

MARZIPAN CORP: Cali Allen, Daelyn Kaelberer, Sienna May, Sara Parker

CLOWNS: Emma Allen, Kaydence Blankenship, Audrey Brown, Aliyah Geving, Pheona Hodson, Peyton Marsh, Alaya Mercer, Scarlett Tatum, Luci Underwood, Shaye Vieira, Emma Vizcaino

DEW DROP: Keira Jackson

FLOWER - DEMI SOLO<mark>ISTS</mark>: Anneliese Croft, Kinsley Merritt

FLOWERS: Cali Allen, Kylee Blankenship, Macie Caldwell, Madison Dallman, Willow Fernandez, Hayden Grant, Daelyn Kaelberer, Kintla LaFevers, Christina Maslak, Sienna May, Erica Mayhugh, Tyra Morris, Sara Parker, Brittany Schneider

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY: Jessica McNeil

CAVALIER: Randy Pacheco

FINALE: Entire Cast

BOWS: Entire Cast



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SUGAR PLUM FAIRY | CAVALIER



Jessica McNeil has been dancing for over 22 years; 21 of which have been under RMSA's very own Elizabeth Fernandez. Before graduatshe performed many roles ing, in RMDT's Nutcracker, including the Pas and Variation of Sugar Plum. She was the lead in Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and many other ballets, as well as becoming an accomplished dancer in Contemporary and Hip Hop. She traveled to New York several times with RMDT and danced several years at the halftime show of the Orange Bowl with RMSA.

After graduating from Cody High School/RMSA, she was accepted into New York's Joffrey Ballet School Intensive and then their Trainee Program. Due to an injury, she moved back to Cody, Wyoming and began teaching dance classes at RMSA and assisting with RMDT's Nutcracker Ballet.

Jessica continues to take classes in New York and at RMSA and has performed in over 18 RMDT Nutcracker productions. She is currently Rocky Mountain Dance Theatre's rehearsal assistant and teaches ballet and contemporary at Rocky Mountain School of the Arts.

Randy Pacheco



Randy Pacheco was born in Camaguey, Cuba. He first began his ballet training at the age of nine at the Vocational School of Art of Camaguey "Luis Casas Romero". He continued his ballet training at "Vincentia de la Torre" National School of the Arts. After graduation, Randy joined the Ballet of Camaguey as Corps de Ballet. His work as a performer over the next four years ultimately culminated in his promotion to Soloist in 2012.

In 2013 he joined Ballet of Jalisco in Mexico as Soloist. Randy joined Ballet Arizona in 2015, and is currently still dancing for Ballet Arizona. Reper-

toire Highlights: "In Creases", "Coppelia", "Swan Lake", "Giselle", "Don Quixote", "Flames of Paris", "The Sleeping Beauty", "The Nutcracker", "Cinderella", "Carmen", "Majisimo", "Fille mal Gardee", "Scheherezade", "Romeo and Juliet", "Konservatoriet", "Symphonie Classique", "Who Cares," "Rubies", "Agon", "Walpurgisnacht", "Symphony in Three Movements", and "Firebird". This is Randy's 5th year performing as the Cavalier in Rocky Mountain Dance Theatre's Nutcracker Ballet in Cody, Wyoming.



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Congratulations RMDT Seniors'



Tyra: We have loved watching you bloom into the dancer you are. Thank you Liz and Brittany for the time you have given her.

pollenlandscapeswy.com Never stop growing! We are rooting for you!



RMSA in cooperation with Cody High School Activities Department, has developed an Independent Provider Extra Curricular Lettering Program for dance. The requirements set forth this policy are meant to be equivalent to other varsity lettering requirements for CHS sports.

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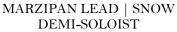


COLUMBINE DOLL | SNOW DEMI SOLOIST | CHINESE LEAD



ARABIAN LEAD | SNOW DEW DROP







ARABIAN LEAD | SNOW SUGAR PLUM PRINCESS



CLARA | COLUMBINE DOLL SNOW | FLOWERS

ALUMNI

Susan Bales

Jessica McNeil

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

Brittany Schneider

SNOW | FLOWERS







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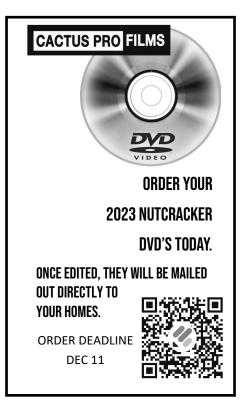
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ARTISTIC PRODUCTION

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR , CO-FOUNDER & CHOREOGRAPHER



Elizabeth Fernandez graduated with honors from the University of Northern Colorado where she received degrees in Dance Teaching/Movement Analysis and Dance Kinesiology. While at UNC, Elizabeth was a member of the University of Northern Colorado Dance Theatre and Colorado Dance Theatre. With these companies, she performed in many ballets and was ballet mistress for both companies. While at UNC in 1996 and 1997; Elizabeth received the Department of Dance Award because of her involvement and contribution to the department.

After graduating, she moved back to Cody, Wyoming where she co-founded Rocky Mountain School of the Arts in 1997 and non-profit Rocky Mountain Dance Theatre in 1998 in Cody, Wyoming, with her mother Cynthia Kaelberer.

Under Elizabeth's direction, RMSA and RMDT trains students of all ages in the art of dance and theatre, focusing on building dancers with a strong and diversified foundation, emphasizing technical training and performing. The cornerstone of RMSA is the significance placed on each dancer's individuality, and how each person's distinctive contributions build alliance with others, self-confidence, perspective, and discipline. RMSA dancers have gone on to train with the Joffrey School of Ballet, Houston Ballet School, Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center, Texas Ballet Theater, and Rhapsody James.

Elizabeth is an experienced choreographer who has choreographed and produced several short works in ballet, contemporary, and musical theatre genres. For twenty -five years she has produced RMDT's annual Nutcracker Ballet, which has become an annual holiday tradition for the area. In 2008, she choreographed the musical Once on This Island for The University of West Florida. In 2016, she brought her own original musical Wild West Spectacular to stage, attracting tourists from all over the world during the summer season in Cody, Wyoming. In 2019, she was one of four guest choreographers hired to set a piece for the University of West Florida Theatre Department's end of year UWF Dance Ensemble performance.

Throughout the years, Elizabeth has received dance training from such names as Jeffrey Rockland, Sandra Minton, Robert Barnett, Christina Monroe, Cherie Noble, Katherine Kramer, and David Taylor. Elizabeth attended The Russian American Foundation's Bolshoi's Ballet Teachers Certification program. In the summer of 2018, she graduated from their highest level, and received her teacher certification from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in New York.

In 2019, Elizabeth was featured as one of the Women in Wyoming: Portraits & Interviews of women who shape the West. This project was exhibited at Buffalo Bill's Center for the West in Cody, Wyoming in 2019 & 2020. In Sept 2023, Women in Wyoming made its National Debut at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK.

Still performing, Elizabeth continues to take classes in New York at Broadway Dance Center, Steps on Broadway, Alvin Ailey, and master classes throughout the United States.



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ARTISTIC PRODUCTION

CHARLES HOUGHTON | LIGHTING DESIGNER



Charles has been with Rocky Mountain Dance Theatre since the beginning. He designed the lighting for our first Nutcracker performance in 1997, and continues to bring professional lighting to the show every year. He has been lighting RMSA/RMDT's Spring Production and Masterpieces of Ballet for the last 10 years, and now designs the lighting for our summer Wild West Spectacular the Musical.

Charles is currently a Senior Lighting Designer with Willie Duggan Lighting in Kilkenny, Ireland, bringing his theatrical design to the lighting for homes and businesses. Prior to moving to Ireland, Charles was on the faculty of the University of West Florida, teaching

lighting and scenic design as well as a variety of technology courses. In addition to teaching, Charles designed the lighting for a variety of theatre companies around the Florida panhandle and beyond. Recent designs include La Boheme, for Pensacola Opera, Carmen, and Tosca for Mobile Opera, The Last Five Years for Emerald Coast Theatre Company, and The Addams Family Musical for The Cody Theatre Company. This season Charles will be designing the lighting for Lucia Di Lammermore, and Die Fledermaus, for Pensacola Opera. And of course, he will be back for spring and Wild West this next year!

CASEY KEARNS | TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & BACKDROP DESIGNER



Casey has proudly been a part of RMDT's Nutcracker since 2003 serving as the Technical Director, as well as coordinating the scenic and properties designs. In 2019, Casey started the process of designing RMDT's very own Nutcracker backdrops and rebuilding new sets. He shares his expertise working on RMDT's Nutcracker, RMSA/RMDT's Masterpieces of Ballet, RMSA/RMDT Spring Productions, and serving as the Technical Director and Scenic Designer for RMDT's Wild West Spectacular the Musical!

Casey resides in his hometown; Chadron, NE and is a freelance scenic designer. He currently has scenic designs in progress in Florida, Tex-

as, Colorado, Missouri, and Wyoming.

Formerly Casey served as the Production Manager and Head of Undergraduate Design and Production at University of Houston (UH) School of Theatre and Dance. Prior to UH, Casey served as an Associate Professor of Scenic Design and Resident Scenic Designer at the University of Wyoming (UW), the University of Indianapolis, the University of Northern Colorado and the Ohio State University–Lima. <u>www.caseykearns.com</u>

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!



Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season

CONGRATULATIONS

to Rocky Mountain Dance Theatre on another successful production of The Nutcracker.



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Cinderella

Thursday, May 9, 2023; 6:30PM Wynona Thompson Auditorium





Saturday, May 11, 2023: 7 PM Sunday, May 12, 2023: 4 PM Wynona Thompson Auditorium

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The Cody Theatre







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