

## JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE CELEBRATES NEW QUEENSLAND WORK IN 2010 PROGRAMME

Three world premieres of new Queensland works and an array of Australian music, dance and theatre performances were unveiled at the **Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts 2010 Highlights Launch** on Friday 27 November 2009.

Judith Wright Centre Director Ruth Hodgman says the 2010 programme reflects a new direction for the Brisbane arts venue, which will focus on presenting and producing new Queensland work that engages the wider community.

"The 2010 programme reflects a turning point for the Judith Wright Centre as we commit to producing, presenting and showcasing Queensland artists and companies who are defining the future of contemporary arts practice," Ms Hodgman said.

"We are vigorously working to harness the energy, innovation and imagination of our resident arts organisations and Queensland artists to enliven and connect with the Valley community and beyond," she said.

"A perfect example is the groundbreaking premiere of *While Others Sleep*, a major collaboration between our resident company Expressions Dance Company, the Judith Wright Centre and acclaimed local band Misinterprotato," she said.

"Without giving too much away, this new Queensland work is an intoxicating fusion of jazz and dance and positions these artforms in a contemporary yet accessible fashion to engage the wider community," she said.

A "Welcome to Country" ceremony directed and choreographed by local actor Jermaine Beezley kicked off the **Judith Wright Centre 2010 Highlights Launch**.

Entertainment for the night included live music performances by acclaimed jazz vocalist and composer **Megan Shorey** and jazz bassist **Andrew Shaw**, and a **Drawing Performance** by renowned artist **Kellie O'Demsey**.

Acclaimed for her work with the Barbican (London), **Kellie O'Demsey** used drawing, painting and inking techniques to create a large scale artwork in the Brunswick St Shopfront to convey her interpretation of the 2010 highlights and the relationship between the artists, live performers and general public.

Direct from sell out seasons in New York, London, Edinburgh and Sydney, **Tom Tom Crew** completed the **Judith Wright Centre 2010 Highlights Launch** with their exciting mash-up of extreme circus and hip hop.

Judith Wright Centre Director Ruth Hodgman says the **2010 Programme Highlights** are designed to attract a diverse range of audiences that enjoy new and different experiences.

"Our 2010 programme is tailored towards audiences that are adventurous; people who like to explore new ideas and fresh directions and trends," Ms Hodgman said.

"At the Judith Wright Centre we are excited about connecting artists and their audiences so that together the two can explore creativity and possibilities.

"We thank the Queensland Government, as owners of the Judith Wright Centre, for their ongoing support," she said.

**-ENDS-**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Friday 27 November, 2009</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Kellie O'Demsey Drawing Performance</b> from 5.30pm <b>Welcome to Country Ceremony</b> 6pm <b>Launch of 2010 Programme Highlights</b> 6pm start <b>Tom Tom Crew Performance</b> 7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts</b>
<b>Tickets</b>	<b>Invitation only</b>

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# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release  
Friday 27 November 2009

## CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED PLAY UNFOLDS WITHIN INTRICATE PORCELAIN SET

Judith Wright Centre and Blue Moon Theatre present

**THE FLOWERING**  
STARRING DONNA CAMERON  
INSTALLATION BY JULIE SHEPHERD  
DIRECTED BY SUE RIDER

*"... a must –see production" The Examiner, Launceston. 2008*

*"...Donna Cameron's performance is gripping" Courier Mail, 2004*

Unfolding within an intricate porcelain set, Donna Cameron's critically acclaimed theatre work **The Flowering** will return to the Brisbane stage when it plays Judith Wright Centre from Wednesday 10 – Saturday 13 February 2010.

Award winning ceramic artist Julie Shepherd has created a 22-piece porcelain installation for **The Flowering**, which pushes the boundaries of theatre and visual arts, says acclaimed actor and playwright Donna Cameron.

"Julie's porcelain set is delicate, magical and really pushes the boundaries of theatre and visual arts," Cameron said.

"Under Sue Rider's deft direction, the characters of the play seamlessly interact with the porcelain landscape," she said.

"The fact that the porcelain could at any moment shatter like glass gives the show an extra edge," she said.

**The Flowering** tells the story of what happened to a girl, Chloe, the year she vanished.

Many years after her return, Chloe is compelled to reveal what happened during the time of her disappearance and, through this retelling, the mysteries of the past begin to come together.

Acclaimed actor and playwright Donna Cameron says she was inspired to write the one-woman-play after seeing a circus of girl performers in India.

"The inspiration for Chloe's story came while I was travelling through India, where I saw a circus of girl performers who had obviously been stolen or kidnapped," Cameron said.

"I've never forgotten the incredible mix of beauty and terror of seeing those girls; the experience made me think of the Greek myth where Persephone is stolen away from her mother Demeter to live in hell," she said.

Set in the present, **The Flowering** is a multi-layered performance that weaves ancient myth and non-linear narrative devices including flashback.

**The Flowering** sees Cameron play all five characters including two men, a spectacle that "can be very funny", says director Sue Rider.

"Donna has an amazing ability to switch character, and that can be very funny," Rider said.

"The comedy of the show often takes audiences by surprise; it's a serious story, but there's a delightful playfulness about Donna's performance and when certain characters clash there are some genuinely hilarious moments," she said.

Back by popular demand, **The Flowering** debuted at Metro Arts in 2004 and toured to Tasmania in 2008.

**-ENDS-**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wed 10 – Sat 13 February 2010</b>
<b>Time</b>	Wed – Sat 7.30pm + Sat 2pm
<b>Venue</b>	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Full \$30, Concession \$25
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3872 9000 or <a href="http://judithwrightcentre.com">judithwrightcentre.com</a>

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# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release  
Friday 27 November 2009

## NEW MUSICAL CELEBRATES BEAUTY AND B\*TCH OF BEING A WOMAN

Judith Wright Centre and Joymas Creative present

### **HANDLE WITH CARE** BY MEGAN SHOREY

*"Megan's work is charming, but also gutsy and heart-felt. A highly creative, polished performer...."*  
Mark Yeoman – Director Noorderzon Festival, The Netherlands

Audiences will be offered a "first-class ticket to the world inside a woman's head" when **Handle with Care** premieres at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts in Brisbane from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April 2010.

Acclaimed composer and performer Megan Shorey says **Handle with Care** comprises four mini musicals, **Girlfriend**, **Three Kilos**, **In My Arms** and **Silk Powersuit**, which reveal the "beauty and bitch" of being a woman.

"**Handle with Care** combines four mini-musicals that rejoice in the beauty and bitch of being a woman, delving into issues of love and relationships, body image, motherhood and gender rivalry in the workplace," Shorey said.

"You could say that **Handle with Care** is a first-class ticket to the world inside a woman's head; it's a piece that appeals to both men and women, and is the perfect opportunity to open discussion between the genders," she said.

Directed by award-winning director Lewis Jones, **Handle with Care** stars Leisa Barry-Smith, Penny Farrow, Sarah Knight, Judy Hainsworth, Liz Buchanan, Kathy Burns, Airlie McCormack and Kathryn McIntyre.

The first of the four mini-musicals is **Three Kilos**, a personal look at the pressures women place on themselves in the quest to attain the physically impossible: airbrushed skin, 'photo-shopped' angles and that ever-elusive size 0.

**Girlfriend** questions the notion of the perfect man and soul-mate as, on the eve of a wedding, three friends ponder their misspent youth over a few too many glasses of bubbly.

The corporate world has a place for young successful women, and that will always be one step behind her closest male rival according to **The Silk Powersuit**, which examines gender rivalry in the workplace.

**Handle with Care** ends with the powerful work **In my Arms**, written by Megan Shorey in just a week and selected from hundreds of national and international works for the world renowned *Short, Sweet and Song* theatre festival.

Exploring the joys and pains of motherhood, **In My Arms** tips its hat to *Sliding Doors* as the stage is split into two identical nurseries with a woman in each room; in the first room she holds a baby, in the other she holds nothing.

Complete with exquisite design, set and staging, the world premiere of **Handle with Care** will play at the Judith Wright Centre from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April 2010.

-ENDS-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April 2010</b>
<b>Time</b>	Wed – Sat 7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Full \$35, Concession \$30
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3872 9000 or <a href="http://judithwrightcentre.com">judithwrightcentre.com</a>

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# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release  
Friday 27 November 2009

## AWARD WINNING DANCE THEATRE WORK COMES TO BRISBANE

Judith Wright Centre presents Force Majeure's

### **THE AGE I'M IN** A DANCE THEATRE PERFORMANCE DIRECTED BY KATE CHAMPION

**WINNER: "OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A COMPANY" 2009 DANCE AWARDS**

*'...one of the best things I've seen this year'* The Sun-Herald

*'You laugh, wince and could even weep at times for the poignancy of the points it makes.'* Sydney Morning Herald

Direct from a successful international tour and sell out seasons at Sydney and Adelaide Festivals, Force Majeure's award winning dance theatre work, **The Age I'm In**, plays the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 4 to Wednesday 5 May 2010.

Internationally renowned director Kate Champion says **The Age I'm In**, featuring interviews with more than 80 Australians aged 15 – 80 who share their thoughts on growing old, re-imagines the traditional dance format to explore the way we inhabit age.

"**The Age I'm In** goes beyond the usual (and often necessary) youthful, fit 25 - 35 demographic of a dance theatre piece to authentically represent a wider range of "life experience" on stage," Champion said.

"As much as we have some highly skilled dancers in the show I also wanted to make sure we weren't only representing how dancers age, which I think can be quite different to how the rest of the general population ages," she said.

"Energy and athleticism (or lack of) reflect the truth of how someone of a particular age moves; if you have a performer who is 80, you have to work with how an 80-year-old moves, and the same goes for a teenager or someone with cerebral palsy," she said.

**The Age I'm In** takes a fresh, humorous look at generational clichés, family, friendship, love and the aging process.

Under Kate Champion's direction, **The Age I'm In** weaves dance, theatre, filmmaking, music and multi-media using hand-held screens pioneered by Force Majeure co-founder Geoff Cobham.

Forging a prolific choreographic career, Kate Champion was a founding member of Dance North, has garnered critical acclaim for her work in London and Germany, choreographed the world premiere of *Dirty Dancing* (2004) and has collected myriad awards including a Helpmann Award, Green Room Award and MO Award among others.

Supported by the Australia Council, Playing Australia and toured by Performing Lines, the national tour of **The Age I'm In** signals Force Majeure's own 'coming-of-age'. Established in 2002 Force Majeure works with actors, dancers, designers, writers, visual artists, composers and filmmakers who are committed to creating stimulating movement-based theatre.

Making its European premiere at the prestigious Lyon Biennale de la Danse in 2006, Force Majeure has since received major national gongs including Green Room and MO Awards.

Embarking on a national tour, **The Age I'm In** plays the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 4 to Wednesday 5 May 2010.

*This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; Arts NSW and the Keir Foundation.*

**-ENDS-**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday 4 to Wednesday 5 May 2010</b>
<b>Time</b>	7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Full \$35, Concession \$30
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3872 9000 or <a href="http://judithwrightcentre.com">judithwrightcentre.com</a>

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# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

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## WOMBAT STEW PHENOMENON TO SWEEP BRISBANE

Judith Wright Centre and Gary Ginivan Attractions present  
**WOMBAT STEW**  
A BRAND NEW AUSSIE MUSICAL FOR KIDS  
BASED ON THE BOOK BY MARCIA K VAUGHAN & PAMELA LOFTS

Thousands of Brisbane children are set to flock to an Australian musical adaptation of the famous children's book **Wombat Stew** at the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 20 to Friday 23 July 2010.

Selling over 350 000 copies Australia-wide since being first published in 1984, **Wombat Stew** is anticipated to attract thousands of Brisbane children, says Judith Wright Centre Director Ruth Hodgman.

"Gary Ginivan Attractions has developed the book into a true blue Aussie musical combining story-telling, mime, music, dance and puppetry," Ms Hodgman said.

"I am thrilled to be presenting this stage production in Brisbane, and I expect **Wombat Stew** will be the highlight of children's theatre for 2010," she said.

"We're expecting thousands of kids and parents through the venue for this very special production," she said.

Written by Marcia K Vaughan with illustrations by Pamela Lofts, **Wombat Stew** is based on the story of a dingo who catches a wombat and decides to make a stew.

Performed by six multi-talented performers, the stage adaptation of **Wombat Stew** is made complete with mud, fine feathers, creepy crawlies, gum-nuts and a big bubbling billy can.

**Wombat Stew** follows the success of Garry Ginivan Attractions' adaptation of *Possum Magic*, which in 2008 toured to over 40 theatres to over 80 000 patrons.

Twice winning the prestigious Pratt Prize for Musical Theatre (including the inaugural prize in 2002 for their musical, *Sideshow Alley*) Gary Young (writer/director) and Paul Keelen (original score) have adapted **Wombat Stew** for the stage.

**Wombat Stew** was first published by Scholastic Australia Pty Limited in 1984. This adaptation was created under license from Scholastic Australia Pty Limited.

In Brisbane for a strictly limited season, **Wombat Stew** plays the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 20 to Friday 23 July 2010.

-ENDS-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 July 2010</b>
<b>Time</b>	10am, 11.45am + 6pm
<b>Venue</b>	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Full \$20, Concession \$15, Children under 15 years \$12, School Groups (10+) \$10 per students + teacher free per 10 students, Family \$60 (2 adults + 2 children) \$60
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3872 9000 or <a href="http://judithwrightcentre.com">judithwrightcentre.com</a>

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## GROUNDBREAKING BLEND OF DANCE AND JAZZ IS “STRIKING”

Expressions Dance Company, Judith Wright Centre and Misinterprotato present

### WHILE OTHERS SLEEP

CHOREOGRAPHED BY NATALIE WEIR WITH MUSICAL DIRECTION BY SEAN FORAN

Audiences will be treated to a “striking” blend of contemporary dance and jazz when the groundbreaking world premiere of **While Others Sleep** plays Judith Wright Centre from Thursday 12 to Sunday 22 August 2010.

Expressions Dance Company (EDC) Artistic Director Natalie Weir says the cutting-edge combination of contemporary dance by EDC and live jazz by acclaimed local band Misinterprotato will be “striking and evocative”.

“**While Others Sleep** is brimming with intensely physical and highly emotional contemporary dance, which is performed to a live jazz soundtrack by acclaimed local band Misinterprotato,” Ms Weir said.

“This is a show that invites the audience to peek into a world that reveals the sensual and slightly sinister ways people behave behind closed doors, and what better way to explore this than through dance and jazz,” she said.

“I am excited about the possibilities of what will happen; I have the most beautiful six dancers in the world and I think the addition of live jazz is going to be striking, sophisticated and intriguing,” she said.

Inspired by a book of contemporary photography of people in their hotel rooms, **While Others Sleep** exposes the secret identities and dualities that surface behind closed doors in the late-night.

Inspirational photographs are used as a springboard for three dynamic vignettes that unfold in different corners of the stage in an intimate cabaret setting.

After coming across a book of contemporary photography, *While Others Sleep*, by Griffith University photography students and edited by Naomi Mendoza, Natalie conceived the idea of the dance work by the same name.

Collaborating with a jazz band has been a goal for Natalie Weir since her appointment as Artistic Director for Expressions Dance Company in October 2008.

The Artistic Director describes jazz as a “perfect fit” for **While Others Sleep**, and says she is excited to be working with acclaimed local jazz band, Misinterprotato.

“I love the aesthetic of jazz; it’s deeply evocative and instantly sets a mood, place and time,” Ms Weir said.

“**While Others Sleep** is seductive with a forbidding edge, and jazz seemed like the perfect choice to extend the window into the late-night hidden world – particularly as jazz is a notorious ‘music of the night’,” she said.

“I am really excited about working with Misinterprotato; the band is highly renowned, exciting and accessible with a broad repertoire, and I imagine the interaction between the dancer and musician will be a very human experience,” she said.

“The combination of dance and jazz also means that there is something for everyone: music lovers, dance lovers and particularly young people,” she said.

Director Natalie Weir will delve into two weeks of rehearsal with the musicians and dancers for creative development followed by another six week rehearsal leading up to the season’s premiere.

*While Others Sleep* is a major production by Expressions Dance Company, Judith Wright Centre and Misinterprotato. The collaboration marks a significant milestone in the history of Expressions Dance Company and Judith Wright Centre as the two companies collaborate for the very first time.

-ENDS-

<b>Date</b>	Thu 12 – Sun 22 August 2010
<b>Venue</b>	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Bookings</b>	Tickets available in January 2010

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# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release  
Friday 27 November 2009

## “PLAY OF THE YEAR” COMES TO BRISBANE

Judith Wright Centre presents  
**RED SKY MORNING**  
BY TOM HOLLOWAY  
A RED STITCH THEATRE PRODUCTION  
DIRECTED BY SAM STRONG

“PLAY OF THE YEAR... succeeds on every level... Tom Holloway's script is tight - hilarious and frequently heart-rending - and performances from David Whiteley, Sarah Sutherland and Erin Dewar are pitch-perfect... a complex, urgent production that deserves to live on.” (*Sunday Age*)

“Breathtaking...testament to one of the rising stars of Australian theatre.” (*The Age*)

Hailed as “play of the year” by *The Sunday Age*, Tom Holloway's award winning **Red Sky Morning** will make its Brisbane premiere at the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 5 to Saturday 9 October 2010.

Winning the 2009 Green Room Award for Best New Australian Writing, **Red Sky Morning** is a witty, moving and lyrical account of a day-in-the-life of a conflicted family and examines depression and isolation in regional Australia.

Internationally acclaimed playwright Tom Holloway weaves the characters' inner thoughts, experimenting with a musical overlapping form, and combines a robust Australian vernacular in **Red Sky Morning** to create a “new” theatre experience.

“Time has taught me how amazing the experience of theatre can be; I mean theatre that grabs you in the guts. Theatre that can give you an experience you've never had before and can't get anywhere else,” Holloway said.

“**Red Sky Morning** is a play where I have tried to capture this experience in a new way. I hope it is not so much a play you go and see, as one you go an experience,” he said.

“My hope is that you will sit back and let the words and the rhythm of the work wash over you,” he said.

**Red Sky Morning** is about a family (mother, father and teenage daughter) who are unable to deal with the mother's alcohol addiction and have stopped communicating with each other.

Playing to critical acclaim in 2008, **Red Sky Morning** was nominated for six Green Room Awards in 2009, winning Best New Writing for the Australian Stage. The show was remounted for the 2009 FULL TILT at the Victorian Arts Centre.

Developed over a year of readings, workshops and rewrites, **Red Sky Morning** was commissioned and produced by Melbourne's renowned Red Stitch Theatre, won the 2007 R E Ross Trust Development Award and was funded by Arts Victoria and the Australia Council during the script development process.

Tom Holloway is a Tasmanian playwright who attended NIDA's playwriting studio and the Royal Court's International Playwriting Studio. Holloway's other plays include *Beyond The Neck*, *Snapshot*, *Revelator*, *The Bus and Stones In My Passway* and *Don't Say The Words*.

**Red Sky Morning** will play at the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 5 to Saturday 9 October 2010.

-ENDS-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday 5 to Saturday 9 October 2010</b>
<b>Time</b>	7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Full \$35, Concession \$30
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## AUDIENCE TO ADVENTURE INTO MUSIC WONDERLAND

Judith Wright Centre, Clocked Out, Anne Roylance, Multicap Monte Lupo and Markwell Presents

### MUSIC OF THE UNEXPECTED

Audiences will adventure into a music wonderland when the new theatre work **Music of the Unexpected** makes its world premiere at the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 30 November to Saturday 4 December 2010.

Writer and Producer Anne Roylance says **Music of the Unexpected** is an “exciting adventure journey” that uses narrative, music and multi-media to celebrate the musicality of everyday objects through creative play and improvisation.

“The main character of the story communicates to the audience through a series of video diaries, and throughout the show the character is further manipulated through animation, shadow work and other cinematic techniques,” Roylance said.

**Music of the Unexpected** begins when a young girl, Magz Malone, explores the house of her new neighbours, who she suspects may be scientists, inventors or perhaps aliens from outer space.

Intrigued by the mysterious sounds coming from the neighbours’ house, Magz Malone sneaks into their house to investigate, taking the audience along on the journey.

As Magz ventures from one room to the next, she discovers different musical worlds created by Brisbane duo Clocked Out (Vanessa Tomlinson and Erik Griswold), who have garnered critical acclaim across Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the US and Europe.

Clocked Out constructs a highly visual, sonic world as they produce music using bottles, bowls, toys and furniture.

Creating the multi-media element of **Music of the Unexpected** is Markwell Presents who, since 2003, has produced live cinematic sequences for 119 live performance seasons and over 50 live youth arts projects.

In **Music of the Unexpected**, Markwell Presents works with real objects, video and shadow work to create different moods for each room; for instance, the company works with shadow and reflection in a bathroom characterised by old mirrors.

The set for **Music of the Unexpected** is a series of large screens on wheels, and each space in the house is defined by the screens; as Magz moves from one room to the next, so too do the screens.

Interspersed within the screens are interactive clay-based objects produced by visual artists from **Multicap Monte Lupo**. These original sculptures are multi-faceted as they work both as a visual stimulus and as interactive musical sculptures that produce idiosyncratic soundscapes.

Writer and Producer Anne Roylance says she was inspired to create **Music of the Unexpected** when she attended a Clocked Out concert, and believes the band’s visual presentation is perfect for a youth audience.

“After attending a Clocked Out concert that was performed for adults, I started to wonder how the music would appeal to young people without comprising its intellectual integrity,” Ms Roylance said.

“Vanessa and Erik from Clocked Out are consummate musicians who have an exceptional understanding of music and composition to create magnificent and unique sound worlds,” she said.

“There is a definite visual presentation to the work of Clocked Out; the duo makes the music before your eyes, which is intriguing, fun and perfect for stimulating imagination and creative thinking,” she said.

-ENDS-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday 30 November to Saturday 4 December 2010</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Bookings</b>	Tickets available in January 2010

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