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The Opera

World Premiere, BSU's Sursa Performance Hall,
April 12, 8:00 p.m. & April 15, 2:00 p.m.

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ELIMINATING POVERTY ONE PERSON,
ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

BSU Opera Theatre
presents

53rd Street
The Opera

Music by Jody Nagel
Libretto by Seth Wolitz

Conducted by
ARDIS FABER

Directed by
TAMMIE HUNTINGTON

Assistant Director
KATIE KELLOGG

Stage Manager
LEIGH ALEXOVICH

Chorus Master
DEREK HUNTER

Assistant Stage Manager
RACHEL MIHICH

Costume Design
JESSICA BECK

Accompanists
BARBARA BRINER-JONES
TAEJIN YOO

Lighting
NICHOLAS JOHNSON

Photos of 53rd Street, NYC
TAMMIE HUNTINGTON
KATIE KELLOGG

Stage Design
NICHOLAS JOHNSON
TAMMIE HUNTINGTON
KATIE KELLOGG

Props Master
ANTHONY AMSTUTZ

Supertitles
LEIGH ALEXOVICH

Opera GA
JESSICA BURKEY

Advertising Campaign
DEREK HUNTER

Sursa Stage Technician
STEFANIE WARD

Program Design
LILY TSAY

Opera Website
KRIS EVENSON
www.capturehits.com
KYLE KITZMILLER

Poster Design
MARK A. BOYLE

A Note of thanks from the Director

Thank you so much for joining us tonight on 53rd Street! The journey that has brought us here first began when Dr. Nagel graciously shared one of the arias from the opera in a class I was taking with him. I was immediately intrigued with both the message and the music of this opera, and could not get it out of my head.

It was in Autumn of 2004 that I first approached Dr. Nagel and requested his consideration of the production and premiere performance of 53rd Street as part of my dissertation project. I was thrilled when he agreed, and I began immediately to explore the events that would need to happen to bring this about. An opera is certainly not a one-person show! The ensuing months have brought a plethora of wonderful, talented people into my life, and I will be forever blessed for having had the privilege of working with them. I have so many people to thank!

First of all, Jody Nagel, for allowing his opera to be produced and directed by a graduate student. Your genius -- and humbleness! -- continues to amaze me the longer I live with this work! I truly believe that you are a composer who can influence and shape the course of "music history to come," and I consider it a great privilege to have been able to study under your theoretical insight and creativity.

Secondly, Craig Priebe, for supporting the production through the BSU Opera Theatre and through his own creation of the lead role of Bum I. I absolutely could not have done this without you. Your mentorship and support throughout both my M.M. and D.A. degrees has shaped my own performing and directing more than you will ever know! I hope to have half the same influence upon my own opera students.

My colleague and friend, Ardis Faber. An opera is nothing without a conductor! Having worked with you throughout the years in many, many situations, I knew you were the perfect fit for this production. Thank you for all the hours of score study, recruiting players, and rehearsal. It is always a delight to work with you in any situation! And a great delight to "hash it out" over dinner, whether it's a discussion of rehearsals or of life itself!

Mark Boyle. . . oh, I mean Mark *A.* Boyle! In the midst of illness, graduation, moving, work, and a family, you have created a beautiful "Benny." Thank you so much for all the behind-the-scenes work in addition to the wonderful singing and acting. You are the perfect counterpoint to Priebe's Bum I -- even if the two of you DO behave like 10-year-olds during rehearsal!

My Assistant Director, Katie Kellogg. She really needs to be acknowledged as "co-director." Katie has been my "make-it-happen" lady. From organization, to staging ideas, and to running rehearsals during illness and other strange conflicts, she could easily have done this all herself. She is an incredibly talented musician and leader and the perfect team-mate. Thank you, Katie, for your willingness to do absolutely anything, and then to go above and beyond what was asked! You have become not only my "right-hand girl," but my friend. Let's do it again!

Finally, **many, many thanks to all the wonderful singers, players, and technical staff listed within the pages of this program. YOU are the opera.** It has been my greatest delight to know that I was working with the best there was. The time you have taken from your studies and many other projects has not gone unnoticed! Thank you so much for sharing in the dream and bringing it to life. No matter how many times this opera is performed in the future, YOU will always be 53rd Street to me. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Tammie Huntington, Director &
BSU Opera Intern, 53rd Street

53rd Street Premiere Cast

Benny	Mark A. Boyle
Bum 1	Craig Priebe
Policeman	Kyle Kitzmiller
Museum Director	Corby York
Senegalese Street Vendor	Sky Woodfin
Businessman	Kellen Lawrence
Pastor of St. Thomas	Russell Thorngate
Food Vendor/Street Cleaner	Adam Hendrickson/Chris Wood
Cameraman	Anthony Amstutz
MOMA Secretary	Lynnell Lewis
French Mother	Loralee Songer
French Daughter	Jodi Cotton
Reporter	Jessi Burkey
Bag Lady	Stefanie Ward
Street Musicians	Cami Hall, Erin Walton, & Libby Warrner

Chorus

Ray Dobell

Scott Fleshood

Cami Hall

John Hutchinson

Devan O'Mailia

Kayla Marsh

Bryant Myroup

Amanda Pierson

Jennifer Rife

Erin Walton

Lisa Walz

Elizabeth Warrner

Orchestra

Ardis Faber, conductor

VIOLIN

Carol Jenkins
Margaret Davis

VIOLA

Philip Tietze

CELLO

José Bobren

BASS

Thomas Zabriskie

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Catharine Ahls

OBOE

Jason Sloan

KEYBOARD

Taejin Yoo

CLARINET/BASS

CLARINET
Brian Stefanelli

BASSOON

Jack Chan

HORN

Michael Sayre
Jennifer Johnson

TRUMPET

Michael Averett

TROMBONE

Trent Lockhart

TUBA

Rex Turner

Jody Nagel, Composer



Jody Nagel joined the Ball State University School of Music faculty in the Autumn of 1992. He won an ASCAP Young Composers Award in 1988 for a chamber orchestral work, and placed fourth in the 1991 International New Composition Competition for original works in the tape-and-instrument medium. Performances of his compositions have been given in various American cities and in England, and at conferences of the Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI) and the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS).

Nagel has presented several papers at the University of Texas at Austin music theory forum, and also delivered a paper to the Texas Society of Music Theory in 1987 where it won first prize for most creative paper. He has contributed to an article on Milton Babbitt's Reflections for piano and tape; the article and acknowledgement appear in the 1988 Perspectives of New Music journal.

In 1992, he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition from the University of Texas at Austin, where he had been the recipient of a doctoral fellowship. He also holds a Master of Arts in music theory and composition from the University of Pittsburgh (1985) and a Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude) from Marietta College (1982).

His principal composition teachers have included Eugene Kurtz, Morton Subotnick, Stephen Montague, Dan Welcher, Donald Grantham and Russell Pinkston. His teachers of music theory have included John Peel, Pat McCreless, Elliott Antokoletz and Roger Graybill.

Co-editor of the small Austin-based music publishing company, Jomar Press, Nagel is dedicated to helping circulate new works by younger composers. He plans to have his operatic portrayal of contemporary New York City, Fifth-Third Street, ready for performance at Ball State University within the next year.

He was granted a 12-month Fulbright Fellowship to visit Australia and held a post-graduate position at the University of Sydney. His professional affiliations include membership in the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS); Society of Composers, Inc.; Society of Music Theory, and Texas Society for Music Theory. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

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Who's Who in the Opera Theatre



Ardis R. Faber, Conductor

Ardis R. Faber is an Associate Professor of Music at Grace College, Winona Lake, IN. She received her B.S. in Music Education from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan and a M.M. in Trumpet Performance from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. Ardis joined the Grace College Music Faculty in 1988, where she is currently head of the Music Education Area, teaching classes music education classes, and conducting. In addition to teaching, Ms. Faber conducts the Grace College Chamber Singers and Chamber Ensemble. Presently, she is pursuing a Doctorate of Arts degree in Music Education and Orchestral Conducting at Ball State University, Muncie, IN. As a second-year Graduate Assistant,

she is Assistant Conductor of the Ball State Symphony Orchestra. She had the pleasure of assisting Dr. Fiora Contino with the 2007 BSU opera *Madame Butterfly*—a rich, exciting experience. While at Ball State, she has studied conducting with Kirk Trevor, Dr. Leonard Atherton, and currently with Bohuslav Rattay. She resides in Winona Lake, IN.



Tammie Huntington, Director

Tammie Huntington is currently in the final stages for the Doctor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance and Opera at Ball State University. She holds a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from BSU, and a bachelor's degree from Grace College in Vocal Performance and Music Education. Huntington's opera/opera performances have included the roles of Lucy in Menotti's *The Telephone*, Papagena in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Despina in scenes from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Josephine in Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* and Suor Genovieffa in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. Huntington has also appeared as Guest Soprano Soloist in orchestral productions of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's

Messiah, and Schubert's *Mass in G Major, No. 2*. Huntington directed the 2005 Opera Scenes program at Grace College in Winona Lake, IN, was a director/conductor in the 2005 opera scenes program at Ball State University, and was Assistant Director for the 2004 BSU main-stage production of Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*. Huntington's directing activities also include numerous school, church and community musical productions. She currently teaches at Indiana Wesleyan University, and resides in Marion, IN, with her husband and three very active and delightful sons!



Katie Kellogg, Assistant Director

Katie Kellogg is in her second year at Ball State University where she studies voice with Dr. Mei Zhong and sings in the Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Pappas. She is currently pursuing the Doctor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance with a secondary emphasis in Music Education. Kellogg received her Master of Arts degree in Music from Ball State as well; she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Elementary Education from Alma College in Alma, MI. Prior to attending Ball State for graduate studies, Kellogg taught elementary music in her hometown of Cadillac, MI. She has appeared in such roles as the Witch in Sondheim's *Into the Woods* and Rose in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*, or *The Witch's Curse*. In addition to her duties as assistant director on 53rd Street, Kellogg holds assistantships in the Music Education and Music Theory departments and she is also the Assistant to the Director of Choral Activities.

Synopsis

Please note: While the projected images of NYC are of real places, the people and events described within this opera are fictional and are not intended to represent any particular organization, but rather various facets of our society in general.

Welcome to 53rd Street, Manhattan, New York City, between 5th and 6th Avenues. As the opera begins, it is a late Saturday afternoon in Autumn, present day. We are met with a barrage of New Yorkers from every walk of life as they sing the praises of their great city.

The opening tutti is followed by a series of character sketches. All are unrelated, except that many of the characters have in common a shared revulsion toward the homeless persons present. The only named character in the opera is “Benny,” one of the street people, and one who was recently forcibly released from a mental institution. His name has been symbolically taken from the Biblical “Tribe of Benjamin,” the tribe rejected by all the others (Judges 20).

The Policeman is the first character we meet, as he walks his regular beat. Of Irish-American extraction, he is honest, but of another generation. He bemoans the decay he sees happening on the streets of NYC. In his wanderings, he meets the Food Vendor, and together they reminisce of “the good ol’ days.”

The Policeman then spots a Senegesele Street Vendor and challenges him on the legality of setting up shop on the street. The Policeman also demonstrates disdain for the street musicians playing nearby. A trio is formed as the vendors reminisce of their homelands and the Policeman continues to lament the changes on 53rd Street.

As a male-choir is heard rehearsing in the church, Bum I appears and rummages in the trash for his supper. The Food Vendor and Policeman discuss their opinion of the homeless, and we get some insight into the character of Bum I as he interacts with the other men on the street.

As the street clears, the Museum Director and his Secretary appear to discuss their plans to improve business. Bum I returns near the end of their dreaming and they react with condescension. As they quickly retreat back into the museum, Benny makes his first entrance, pleased that he has just received a large turkey bone as a gift. Bum I tries to talk Benny into sharing with him, when a Reporter from a local television station appears, searching for a good story on the homeless of NYC. After listening to the reporter pitch her idea, Bum I drunkenly regales Benny with the glories of street living. Benny does not understand all that Bum I is saying, but gives us some insight into his own background as he gently and sweetly sings of his own memories.

The Senegesele Street Vendor returns and attempts to interest the Street Musicians in his wares, but with no success. He is pleased to see Benny, and attempts to warn him of the Policeman’s former inquiry. Benny, Bum I, and the Senegesele Street Vendor launch into a trio discussing their place on the streets of New York.

Suddenly, the museum lets out and the street is filled again. Two French tourists, a mother and daughter, enjoy the sights and sounds of New York City, but are rather horrified and disgusted by the food vendors and the street people. Bum I reacts violently to the haughtiness displayed by the French Mother and a quintet follows as the small crowd on the stage react to each others’ presence on 53rd Street.

Amidst all the commotion, the Pastor appears, wanting to clear the street for a wedding that is about to begin. All react to the demands of the pastor, and the Policeman enters again to try to disperse the mounting riot. The crowd continues to attract more and more of the street’s regulars and all scream for their own rights to be on 53rd Street. The fighting is momentarily interrupted as the bride is spotted. As the wedding begins, the Police Officer finally convinces the crowd to disperse.

After the street clears, Bum I and Benny sneak back to their warm place above the grates of the subway, in front of the church. Benny listens to the end of the wedding, and wonders aloud if he will have one. This leads Bum I to reflect upon his own life and his ensuing philosophy. His emotions begin to boil and he again beseeches Benny to share his turkey bone, promising to take only one bite. Benny tentatively agrees and is distraught when Bum I refuses to give it back. For the first time, Benny stands up to Bum I, leading to the climax of the opera.

The true value of the homeless is revealed throughout the final scenes.

Let him who has ears to hear . . . hear!

NOTE: Strobe lights are used at various points throughout the opera.

Special Thanks to . . .

***The College of Fine Arts, School of Music**, especially: *Dean Robert Kvam, Dr. Meryl Mantione, and Nancy Baker*

***Department of Theatre**, especially: *Director William Jenkins, Kay Baylis, and Zach*

***Sursa Hall Personnel**, especially *Stefanie Ward*

***Marion High School & Ben Huntington**

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Who's Who in the Cast



Mark A. Boyle, Benny

Mark A. Boyle, originally from Wethersfield, Connecticut, is in his last year of an extended MM in Choral Conducting, including a great deal of additional study in voice performance. In 2002, he began a continuing association with the Masterworks Chorale of East Central Indiana, serving as their Associate Artistic Director. He has studied voice with Drs. Mei Zhong, Jeffrey Ballard, and Ms. Vicki Gorman. Continually sought after as a tenor soloist, Boyle performs throughout the Midwest and eastern part of the United States. He has also taken part in masterclasses with Marilyn Horne, Denyce Graves, and the late Richard Pearlman. He is married to music educator and pianist Jane Boyle and is the proud father of Nathan, 4, and Patrick, 10 months. Boyle will begin doctoral studies in choral conducting at Rutgers University this fall.



Jessi Burkey, Reporter

Jessi Burkey, M.M., a native of Coeur d'Alene, ID, is currently pursuing a Doctor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance at Ball State University. There she serves as Graduate Assistant in Opera and Voice departments, as well as The Opera Outreach Coordinator. Jessi is also an instructor of voice at Indiana Wesleyan University. Her recent academic accomplishments include, presenting her research on vocal music related to war at the 2005 and 2007 *Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities*. She is founder and president of the Ball State Chapter of the *Student National Association of Teachers of Singing*. Her roles at Ball State include Dorabella in *Così fan Tutti*, Announcer in *Gallantry*, and Kate Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*. She is thrilled to take on the role of The Reporter in the world premiere performance of *53rd Street*. Jessi can be seen presenting her research at the *CMS International Conference* in Bangkok, Thailand this July.



Jodi Cotton, French Daughter

Jodi Cotton recently graduated with a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance Degree from Ball State University. She is currently on the faculty at Ball State University teaching voice, music theory, singing actor and accompanying in the Musical Theater Program. She has performed at several theme parks across the United States including Cedar Point and Busch Gardens Williamsburg. Last year she was the First Lady in Mozart's, *The Magic Flute*. Currently, she is the Music Director for Ball State's production of *Urinetown the Musical*. She is also very excited about being a part of the World Premiere of *53rd Street!*



Kyle Kitzmiller, Policeman

Kyle Kitzmiller is a sophomore at Ball State University, performing in various ensembles, including the Chamber Choir for two years, and he was an alto saxophone player and vocal soloist for the Ball State University Singers. Kyle is an avid barbershop quartet singer and performed in the main stage production of "*Die Zauberflöte*" and he was the sound technician for the children's opera outreach program last spring.



Kellen Lawrence, Businessman

Kellen Lawrence, Bass, is a junior at Ball State University. He is excited to perform the role of the Businessman in *53rd Street!* He is an active member in the BSU Choirs including Chamber & Concert Choirs, and Statesmen. Kellen appeared in the BSU Opera Theatre's main stage production of *Madame Butterfly* as the Bonze this past February. Also at BSU, he has appeared in *Die Zauberflöte* as a member of the Chorus. Kellen competed in the NATS State & Regional Vocal Competitions this year with a first place standing at the State level. Musically, he has worked with such professionals as Fiora Contino, Simon Carrington, Maria Lagios, and James Gallagher. He is a student of Voice Performance with Mr. Joseph Levitt. He would like to thank his family and friends for all their continued support and love. "Thank you!"



Lynnell Lewis, MOMA Secretary

Lynnell Lewis, soprano, is originally from San Diego, California, and has performed an eclectic mix of music for many years. She is currently working on her Masters Degree in Vocal Performance at Ball State University and studies with Dr. Mei Zhong. Her most recent performance was *Madrigal IV*, by George Crumb at Earlham College. Additionally she has performed solos in Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, and twice played the role of Mother, in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. A recent transplant to the Midwest, she taught voice in the foothills of the Himalayas of India then settled in the Washington DC area where she continued to teach and perform. She was co-founder of the world music ensemble, Off Chants, with whom she made a recording, called *Sketches of India*. She loves performing new music and is delighted with her role of the Secretary in *53rd Street*.



Craig A. Priebe, Bum I

Dr. Craig A. Priebe, baritone, is Associate Professor of Music Performance, where he teaches voice, and co-directs the Opera program at Ball State University. He has a Bachelor of Music degree from St. Cloud State University, Minnesota; an Opera Diploma from Die Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover, Germany; and a Master of Music and D.M.A. degrees in Voice and Opera Directing from the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. Dr. Priebe spent ten years in Germany where he performed leading roles in the opera houses of Hannover, Hildesheim, Karlsruhe, Kaiserslautern, and Bremerhaven. Since returning to the United States, he has appeared with the opera companies of Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Opera Illinois in Peoria, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, and Tacoma Opera. He created the role of Johnny in *Songplay*, a new Kurt Weill revue, for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and the St. Louis Repertory Theater; and made his New York City debut as the Ferryman in Benjamin Britten's *Curlew River*. In 1999, he appeared with the Cincinnati Symphony with James Conlon in a concert version of Kurt Weill's *Die Propheten*, and the following year sang with the Pittsburgh Opera Theatre production of Weill's *Die Bürgschaft* under the direction of Julius Rudel. Most recently, he has sung the role of Papageno with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh and Sharpless in Ball State's production of *Madame Butterfly*. He was artist-in-residence for Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, where he taught voice and directed the Opera-Theatre program, and was formerly on the voice faculty at Northern Kentucky University. Dr. Priebe joined the Ball State University faculty in the autumn of 1998.

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Loreale Songer, French Mother

Loreale Songer, mezzo-soprano, holds a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance from Ball State University and a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from Taylor University. Loreale is currently pursuing a Doctor of Arts degree from Ball State University. Her opera roles include Suzuki (*Madame Butterfly*), Geraldine (*A Hand of Bridge*), Lola (*Gallantry*), Narrator (*Three Little Pigs from School*), 2nd lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Marie (*The Bartered Bride*), Nancy (*Albert Herring*) and Countess (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Loreale serves as an adjunct faculty member at Taylor University and teaches applied voice as part of her full assistantship at Ball State.



Russell Thorngate, Pastor of St. Thomas

Russell Thorngate is a veteran choir director and music educator, having taught public school music in Wisconsin for 22 years, and is currently in the doctoral program in choral conducting here at Ball State. He has appeared in twenty opera, musical theatre, and theatre productions. In addition, he has directed seventeen musical theatre productions for both schools and community theatre groups. His onstage roles include the title role in "The Impresario," El Remendado in "Carmen," Prince Dauntless in "Once Upon A Mattress," Max in "The Sound of Music," El Gallo in "The Fantasticks," Marcellus Washburn in "The Music Man," and Sancho Panza in "Man of La Mancha." His proudest achievement, however, is having raised three beautiful, talented daughters.



Christopher Wood, Food Vendor/Street Cleaner

Christopher Wood, tenor, is a returning undergraduate who is eager in finishing his degree in vocal and general music education. He is honored to be creating and playing the role of Food Vendor and Street Cleaner in the new opera, *53rd Street*. Christopher made his debut with Ball State Opera when playing the role of Jack, in *Jack in the Beanstalk* during the 2003-2004 opera season for the Children's Opera. He also has played the role of Il Principe Yamadori in this year's main opera performance of *Madame Butterfly*. He has taken applied vocal lessons from Craig Priebe, and is currently singing in the studio of Joseph Levitt. The plentiful encouragement and structure from teachers here at the School of Music is greatly appreciated, as well as support from friends and family.



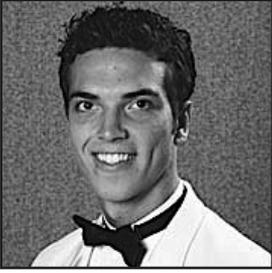
Stefanie Ward, Bag Lady

Stefanie "Bubbles" Ward is currently pursuing her Masters degree in Bassoon performance at Ball State University. She received her Bachelors degree from Western Michigan University. Stefanie is also the Sursa and Choral hall stage manager. This is Stefanie's first on stage role but has performed in numerous pit orchestras. Stefanie spends her life with Paul Hegedus and their 10-month-old English bulldog, Penny.



Sky Woodfin, Senegalese Street Vendor

Sky S.C. Woodfin Jr, is a senior majoring in Music Education from Fort Wayne, Indiana. He has been in numerous productions such as *Gallantry*, *Music Man*, *Magic Flute*, and his most recent *Smokey Joe's Café*. Sky would like to thank God, family and friends for all of their support, and to the cast members for stepping up to the challenge and putting together a great opera. Enjoy the opera, with hopes that it'll change your perspective on life. God Bless!



Corby York, Museum Director

Corby York is a junior Vocal Performance major at Ball State. He is an active participant in the Opera program, having been in such performances as *The Lonely Empress*, *Madame Butterfly* and now *53rd Street*. Other music credits while at Ball State include Ball State Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, Statesmen, Ball State University Singers, and a choral scholar at High Street Methodist Church. Corby assists the Anderson Highland High School Show Choirs where he teaches voice lessons. While not doing school work you can find him at the Ball State Federal Credit Union where he is a teller.



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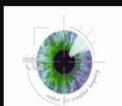


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