



SWIMMING
HOME

PERSMAP



Drama - 2023 - UK - 99 minuten
Bioscooprelease: 27 juni 2024

Distributie

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Synopsis

SWIMMING HOME is een surrealistische en duister komische reis, geïnspireerd op de gelijknamige roman van Deborah Levy.

Wanneer Isabel en haar familie bij hun vakantievilla aankomen, vinden ze Kitty naakt drijvend in het zwembad. Geheel onverwacht nodigt Isabel deze vreemdeling uit om te blijven. Kitty blijkt botanist te zijn en verzamelt giftige planten. Haar aanwezigheid zet de verhouding tussen Isabel en haar man Joe op scherp. Als de temperatuur stijgt en de spanningen verder oplopen, verandert de zonovergoten vakantie van het gezin in een hachelijk schouwspel waarbij verborgen gevoelens niet langer onderdrukt kunnen blijven.

SWIMMING HOME ging in wereldpremière op het Internationaal Filmfestival van Rotterdam (IFFR). Een film van regisseur en schrijver Justin Anderson met Christopher Abbott, Mackenzie Davis, Ariane Labed, Nadine Labaki en Freya Hannan-Mills.





Director: Justin Anderson

Director's biography

Justin Anderson studied fine art at the Slade School in London and at the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. He exhibited as an artist making videos and live TV transmission performances on SALTO 1, the Dutch public-access television station.

Anderson directed music videos, commercials and won numerous awards in fashion. In 2014 he won four awards at the Berlin fashion Film Festival including best film. Working with publications UK Vogue, Vogue Italia, Purple Magazine, designers Richard Nicoll, Jonathan Saunders, Roksanda, Agent Provocateur and Armani.

In 2014 he obtained the rights to develop the novel *Swimming Home* from cult author Deborah Levy for his debut feature. Whilst writing the screenplay he continued to direct commercials and made short films for the New York City Ballet and The National Trust as well as a short adaptation of a Guy de Maupassant short story called *The Idyll* starring Emma de Caunes and Dougray Scott.

In 2022 with producers Andy Starke, Emily Morgan and Giorgos Karnavas *Swimming Home* went into production and was shot in Greece with Heretic. Ariane Labed was joined by American actor Christopher Abbott, Canadian Mackenzie Davis and the Oscar nominated Lebanese actor-director Nadine Labaki. Avant-garde choreographer Candela Capitan created a specialist dance company and fashion houses Hermes, Aires and Dilara Findikoglu provided additional costumes.

Director's statement

To Swim Home

A few years ago, I made a short film inspired by Pasolini's *Teorema* about a man emerging from a pool and standing naked in the window during a family dinner. A journalist friend saw it and suggested I read *Swimming Home*, Deborah Levy's recent man-booker shortlisted novel about a naked woman invited to stay at a family villa.

I was immediately enthralled by the book, it reminded me of the classic arthouse summer films I'd loved like *La Piscine*, the sense of unease in a beautiful place; of Rohmer's *La Collectionneuse*, shifting relationships particular to time spent doing nothing; guests, family, desire. That heady mix of sunshine and discontent.

But there was something else in Deborah's book that felt really original to me - a distinctive tone to the unsettling feelings and actions of the characters that didn't always make sense... realistic scenes that erupt in flashes of disorienting hostility and non sequiturs. A kind of elusive energy that I felt could transform into cinema in an interesting way. I knew this was the film I wanted to make.

When Deborah and I met she described the uncanny, we talked about Freud, our love of surrealism, what Gertrude Stein called an 'exact description of inner and outer reality.' We walked on Hampstead Heath, musing over their actions of the family as if they were real.

Before writing, I gave the book to my former analyst and did Freudian analysis on the characters. These recorded sessions became the underpinning of the script. We talked about the effects of war, of traumas that surround us and how we deal with them in our comfortable lives. My own experience of being widowed in my thirties and now happily remarried gave me an understanding of the complexities of these feelings. How a binary approach to human relations could never quite encapsulate the full story. Life is always stranger than fiction and what goes on inside our heads is often much scarier than ordinary life presents.

Swimming Home is about a woman who unexpectedly invites a stranger to stay on her family holiday. As the stranger's presence permeates the family, hidden feelings begin to emerge, fragment and ferment.

To capture the uncanny, I decided to make a film whose form would become fragmented, to use an associative narrative that runs alongside the primary narrative. We added the Crab Club, a dance world where the real-life and a meta-world could collide and ferment; we enlisted the help of the strange and wonderful choreographer Candela Capitan to build the bridge to these worlds. There are always oddities that exist in a holiday world, this served to build an environment that was 'normal' and at the same time 'other'. Ponyland, a ranch themed riding school, a place by the sea where naked guys hang out on speedboats and lie on the rocks like iguanas.

Cast & Crew

Christopher Abbott

CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT is an actor whose critically acclaimed work spans both stage and screen. He is currently starring alongside Aubrey Plaza in John Patrick Shanley's breakthrough play DANNY AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA at The Lucille Lortel Theatre. He can also be seen in Yorgos Lanthimos' POOR THINGS, which won the prestigious Golden Lion Award at Venice as well as the Golden Globe for "Best Motion Picture, Musical/Comedy."

Recent credits include Zachary Wigon's SANCTUARY opposite Margaret Qualley (premiered at Toronto International Film Festival in 2022, where it sold to NEON), Jerrod Carmichael's directorial debut ON THE COUNT OF THREE (premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2021, where it sold to Annapurna), Mona Fastvold's THE WORLD TO COME with Katherine Waterston and Vanessa Kirby (premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2020), Brandon Cronenberg's thriller POSSESSOR opposite Andrea Riseborough (premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2020), Lawrence Michael Levine's meta-drama BLACK BEAR with Aubrey Plaza (premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2020), Sebastián Silva's TYREL (premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2018), Nicolas Pesce's PIERCING (premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2018) and Trey Shults' IT COMES AT NIGHT for A24.

Accolades include "Best Actor" nominations from the Independent Spirit Awards and Gotham Awards for his portrayal of the title role in Josh Mond's JAMES WHITE. Christopher also received a Golden Globe nomination in the "Best Performance by an Actor in a Limited Series" category for his work as "Captain John Yossarian" in George Clooney's television adaptation of Joseph Heller's celebrated satirical novel CATCH-22.

Upcoming Abbott has MUBI feature BRING THEM DOWN alongside Barry Keoghan for director Christopher Andrews and the film adaptation of Deborah Levy's Man Booker Prize-nominated novel SWIMMING HOME, for director Justin Anderson, opposite Mackenzie Davis and Ariane Labeled. He'll also begin production on Leigh Whannell's WOLF MAN for Universal Pictures and Blumhouse. Chris will play the title character opposite Julia Garner.

Mackenzie Davis

Mackenzie Davis was most recently seen on stage in Simon Stone's production of Phaedra at the National Theatre and in the critically acclaimed HBO Max limited series Station Eleven, based on the Emily St. John Mandel novel and adapted for television by Patrick Somerville.

She played lead roles in Tim Miller's Terminator reboot for Paramount and Clea Duvall's Happiest Season opposite Kristen Stewart (which broke streaming records for Hulu). Other feature credits include Denis Villeneuve's Blade Runner 2049 opposite Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford, Jon Stewart's Irresistible alongside Steve Carrell, Jason Reitman's Tully opposite Charlize Theron, Ridley Scott's The Martian alongside Matt

Damon and Donald Glover and Drake Doremus's Breathe In. She also starred in Sophia Takal's Always Shine, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival to rave reviews; her performance earned her the award for "Best Actress" in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film.

Television credits include AMC's critically acclaimed Halt and Catch Fire and Charlie Brooker's hit anthology series Black Mirror for Netflix. Her episode "San Junipero" won the 2017 Emmy for "Outstanding Made-for-Television Movie" and "Outstanding Writing for a Limited Series, Movie or Dramatic Special."

Mackenzie will next star opposite James McAvoy in the Blumhouse/Universal remake of Danish genre film The Guests, and in the film adaptation of Deborah Levy's Man Booker Prize-nominated novel Swimming Home, for director Justin Anderson, alongside Christopher Abbott & Ariane Labeled.

Ariane Labeled

Ariane Labeled is a French actor and director.

Her first film, (Attenberg) by Athina Rachel Tsangari, won her the Best Actress Award at the Venice Film Festival and at the Festival Premier Plan in Angers (2010).

She has worked with Yorgos Lanthimos (Alps, The Lobster), Philippe Grandrieux (Malgré La Nuit), Justin Kurzel (Assassin's Creed), Lucie Borleteau (Fidelio l'odyssée d'Alice) for which she won the Best Actress Award at the Locarno Film Festival and was nominated for a Best Upcoming César Award. Other film credits include: Richard Linklater's 'Before Midnight', Garth Davis's 'Mary Magdalene', and 'The Souvenir' and 'The Souvenir Part II' directed by Joanna Hogg.

She recently starred in Peter Strickland's film Flux Gourmet which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in 2022. She recently wrapped on Brady Corbett's upcoming feature film The Brutalist.

TV credits include Trigonometry, Black Mirror, and L'Opera.

Nadine Labaki

After graduating in audiovisual studies from the University of Beirut, she directed adverts and music videos that frequently won awards. In 2004, she embarked on a Festival de Cannes Cinéfondation Residency to write and develop Caramel, her first feature film, shot two years later and showcased at the Directors' Fortnight in 2007. This joyous, rebellious ode to female camaraderie was distributed worldwide and became the most successful Lebanese film export of all time. Nadine Labaki continued to explore the female condition and religious tensions in Where Do We Go Now? a bold, universal fable on tolerance that premiered at Un Certain Regard in 2011 and won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival. In 2008, she received the Insignia of

Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Ministry of Culture.

In 2104 Nadine directed 'Rio, I Love You', one of the segments of the Cities of Love anthology film which she directed, co-wrote, and starred in, opposite Harvey Keitel. In 2018, Nadine Labaki was selected in the official Competition of the Cannes Film Festival with her powerfully moving Capernaum, a poignant manifesto on damaged childhood, refugees and the cracks in a society that turns its back on humanity, which sent shockwaves around the Croisette.

Nadine Labaki won the Jury Prize of the Cannes Film Festival that year, chaired by Cate Blanchett, and gave an unforgettable speech accompanied by young actor and Syrian refugee,

Zain Al Rafeea. Nominated for the Baftas, the Golden Globes, the French Césars and an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, Capernaum made its Lebanese director the first woman from the Arabic-speaking world to be nominated in this category.

In 2019, she was the president of the « Un Certain Regard » jury at Cannes Film Festival. Her latest short film, entitled: "Mayroun and the unicorn" created for "Homemade" series, was co-directed with her husband, composer Khaled Mouzanar. It tells the story of her daughter Mayroun's imagination during confinement.

As an actress, Nadine Labaki played in Fred Cavayé's movie "Mea Culpa", in Xavier Beauvois' film "La Rançon de la Gloire", in "Stray bullet" of the Lebanese Director Georges Hachem, in "Rock the Casbah" of Laïla Marrakchi, in "1982" of Oualid Mouaness, in "Costa Brava" of Mounia Akl, in "Perfect Strangers" of Wissam Smayra and "Retour en Alexandrie" of Tamer Ruggli.

Freya Hannah Mills

Freya is an actress, playwright, and screenwriter from Liverpool.

SWIMMING HOME is Freya's feature film debut as an actress. She will also soon be seen in Robert Salerno's upcoming feature HEREAFTER starring opposite Connie Britton.

As a writer, her theatre work includes the short play SWALLOW which was on at the Tristan Bates Theatre & Everyman Theatre, Liverpool. She then developed SWALLOW into a short film, starring Kate Kelly, which won the Film The House Best Script for Under 16s and Best Short Film for Under 16s in 2019. Her play SNOW ANGELS was performed at the Lyric, Hammersmith, which led to Freya being commissioned to write a piece for Jude Law to perform at the Lyric, Gala.

In 2018 Freya received the Wicked Young Writers award and the Robert Hutchinson Award for poetry at the Winchester Poetry Festival. She also won the Film the House Award for Best Original Script (under 16) for her short film THE IRON GROTTTO this same year.

Other short films include REMEMBER which she wrote for Partizan in 2020, and I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW which she wrote and directed, and which won the Film the House Best Direction Award (under 19) in 2022 and was in the writers' room for the Working Title TV remake of WILD CHILD.

Candela Capitán - choreographer

Candela Capitán's personal work explores the activation and deactivation of social ties, positioning the body in relation to others, to objects and collective imagery. Her projects tackle the subjects of new forms of communication technology, relationships that blur the lines between artistic disciplines, as well as intergenerational impact and its consequences.

These serve as vehicles of creation for dreamlike spaces and parallel realities manifesting in the form of choreography, installations, and performances that invite the viewer to engage directly with the tension, delight, and delirium therein.

Candela Capitán mostly uses the language of performance to study the limits of dance, and the presence of the body on stage intersected by feminine sexuality and voyeurism. Her work has evolved via different mediums (live action performances, installations, and in the audio-visual field) and instruments (via virtual or live platforms) with the objective of finding different channels of interconnection with the public, and questioning artistic disciplines and their potential.

Candela Capitán, born in Seville in 1996 and currently based in Barcelona, initiated her artistic journey in 2018. Some notable highlights from her portfolio include Mantis and Three Hours of Coffin (2019), showcased at the Loom Festival in Barcelona. The Death at the Club (2018) gained national and international recognition at events like "A Call for Action: MOVING IS UNDERSTANDING" organized by the University College London, the CLUBS Arts Festival in Barcelona (2022), Stockholm Gallery Weekend, and TEA Museum in Tenerife.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she created Dispositivo de Saturación Sexual (2019), presented on the virtual platform "Chaturbate" and later exhibited at SEXKINO ROLAND by Zurich University of Design Arts, TEA Museum, and EINA University Center of Design and Art in Barcelona.

Tomorrow People (2022) was showcased at Poble Español with the Queer Maricas Collective in Barcelona and at TEA Museum. Her latest work, 19762. Solos y conectados (2022), premiered at the Fridercianum Kassel theatre in June 2022 during Documenta 15 - Universes in Universe - Germany, supported by the residency at Graner, Barcelona, and co-produced by the Institut Ramon Llull.

Currently, Candela is actively engaged in ongoing projects, including SOLAS performed last September at Canal Theatre in Madrid and an opera collaboration with Florentine Klepper at Kassel Theatre in Germany, set for 2024.

Andy Starke - producer (UK, Anti-Worlds)

After ten years in television post-production, and five years as part of psychedelic rock group “Regular Fries” (currently residing in the “where are they now” section) Starke founded Boum Productions with film historian Pete Tombs. For Boum, Starke has written, produced, directed & edited numerous TV, film and documentary projects. Boum has received worldwide acclaim for its groundbreaking Mondo Macabro DVD label, focusing on “the wild side of world cinema” and dedicated to preserving formally “lost” genre movies from countries not usually associated with popular cinema.

In 2008 Starke and director Ben Wheatley founded Rook Films – since then Starke has made 7 feature films with Wheatley. UK Canada co-production Possessor by Brandon Cronenberg premiered at this year’s Sundance Film Festival and will be released by NEON in Autumn 2020. He is currently producing two Arena documentaries for the BBC – one on British performance artist and writer Brian Catling and another on pioneering sound artist Delia Derbyshire – famous for her creation of the Dr Who theme.

Starke has also produced films by Peter Strickland – The Duke of Burgundy and 2018’s TIFF sensation “In Fabric” which was released by A24 in December 2019 - Jim Hosking and Ashim Ahluwalia and has a slate of movies and television in production and development including upcoming features, documentaries and TV series by Justin Anderson, Lucile Hadzihalilovic, Caroline Katz, Richard Littler, Kier-La Janisse and Ben Rivers.

Emily Morgan - producer (UK, Quiddity Films)

Emily Morgan is a BAFTA and BIFA winning producer working on a slate of projects through Quiddity Films, with collaborators across the world.

Quiddity’s most recent co-production is THE SETTLERS, a Patagonian revisionist Western that premiered in Cannes, Un Certain Regard 2023, won the FIPRESCI prize and was selected as Chile nomination for the foreign language Oscar. The company is now in post-production on SWIMMING HOME, an adaptation of Deborah Levy’s Booker-nominated novel, written and directed by Justin Anderson, starring Christopher Abbott, Mackenzie Davis, Ariane Labed and Nadine Labaki.

Emily’s first feature production was the BAFTA-winning I AM NOT A WITCH, written and directed by Runagno Nyoni that screened in Cannes, Sundance and TIFF. She went on to produce MAKE UP written and directed by Claire Oakley via iFeatures and SUPERNOVA written and directed by Harry Macqueen, starring Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci. Over recent years she has also worked as a producer on DO NOT HESITATE for Lemming Film and as co-producer on CHEVALIER for Element Pictures and Searchlight. Previously, Emily was an in-house Producer at UK independent distributor Soda Pictures. She started her film career in distribution at Studio Canal and as a freelancer for companies such as Partizan, The Bureau, Hot Property Films and Steel Mill Pictures. Emily was featured as a Screen Star of Tomorrow 2015 and a Future Leader in 2018.

She is a member of BAFTA, the European Film Academy and ACE Producers. Alongside her love of film, Emily has always had a passion for exploring cultures beyond the UK and speaks Spanish, Portuguese and French.

Giorgos Karnavas - producer (GR, Heretic)

Giorgos Karnavas was born in 1973 in Athens, studied Political Sciences while taking courses on scriptwriting. He is the founder and producer of Synch Festival (2006 Best European Electronic Music Festival) and during his career as music promoter, he has promoted shows by artists such as Pet Shop Boys, Antony and the Johnsons, Nine Inch Nails, Happy Mondays and Róisín Murphy to name a few.

He entered film production in 2011 and is a member of A.C.E, alumni of Inside Pictures, and member of the European and Greek Film Academies. He was a “Producer on the Move” in 2013 Cannes Film Festival when he joined forces with Konstantinos Kontovrakis in order to establish Heretic, a boutique film house producing and selling films on a global scale. In 2018 he was awarded the prestigious Prix Eurimages at the European Film Academy Awards.

His credits include Palm d’Or, EFA’s winner and Oscar nominated “Triangle of Sadness” by Ruben Östlund, Vasilis Katsoupis Berlinale Panorama debut “Inside” currently in global release by Focus Features, Angela Schanelek’s Silber Bear winner “Music”, Semaine de la Critique winner “Feathers” by Omar El Zohairy, and Molly Manning Walker’s 2023 UCR winner title “How to have sex”

Paula Linhares & Marcos Tellechea - producers (Brazil, Reagent Media)

Paula and Marcos are co-founders of Reagent Media, Brazil. They were actively involved in the financing of The Revenant and Executive Producers on American Made, starring Tom Cruise. Reagent’s Pacified, by Paxton Winters, Won San Sebastian’s Golden Shell in 2019.

Leontine Petit & Erik Glijnis - producers (The Netherlands, Lemming Film)

Lemming Film is one of the leading film and tv series production companies in The Netherlands, with a sister company in Germany and Belgium. Since 1995 their aim is to create productions with high quality which reflect contemporary society. They focus on both the national and international market and aim to work with the best local and international talent to reach a broad audience.

Their productions are regularly financed from several international sources, are award-winning and widely shown at prestigious festivals.

In 2021 Lemming Film founded a new creative alliance with eight other independent production companies called “The Creatives”, to jointly develop a slate of high-end drama series and feature films.

Today Lemming Film is run by CEO/producer Leontine Petit and producers Erik Glijnis and Tom van Blommestein.

Simon Sarketzis - director of photography

Simos Sarketzis was born in Germany in 1975 and currently lives and works in Greece. He studied Cinematography at Lik.Stavrakos Cinema School of Athens and continued his education in France at Universite ParisVIII at the department of Cinema, Etudes Audiovisuel. He has been working in cinema production since 1994 and as a Director of Photography since 2004 with more than 25 feature films under his belt, two of which were awarded with the Greek Film Academy’s Best Cinematography award. Notable credits include LITTLE ENGLAND by Pantelis Voulgaris, XENIA by Panos Koutras and SMYRNA by Grigoris Karantinakis. Simos recently shot SWIMMING HOME by UK writer/director Justin Anderson. In addition, he frequently works in theatre as a Lighting Designer.

Myrte Beltman - production designer

Myrte is a production designer based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, specializing in the international art house film industry. Her distinctive style is characterized as graphically striking, with a penchant for the surreal.

Recently she completed work on Swimming Home (starring Ariane Labed, Chris Abbott and McKenzie Davis) and Torch Song (starring Carla Juri), and is eagerly awaiting the release of Sweet Dreams which will premiere in the main competition of the Locarno Film Festival.

Other notable projects include Take Me Somewhere Nice (2019) which won Best Film at the Sarajevo Film Festival in 2019, the Netflix original Forever Rich (2021) and the psychedelic feature Met Mes (2022).

Napoleon Stratogianakis - editor

Napoleon has a wealth of experience in Greece and the UK across Television and Film. His earlier credits include collaboration with director Thanos Anastopoulos on CORRECTION and on Toronto-selected THE DAUGHTER, both of which premiered in Berlinale Forum. Napoleon’s also cut the feature SUNTAN with director Argyris

Papadimitropoulos, whom he also worked with on MONDAY. SUNTAN made the rounds at several film festivals and earned the “Best International Feature Award” at Edinburgh Film Festival, as well as a nomination for a “European Film Award” in 2016. Napoleon was the sole editor on Dan Kokotajlo’s BAFTA-nominated APOSTASY, which was shown at Toronto and London Film Festivals in 2017, and MARI for BFI + BBC Films with director Georgia Parris which was shown at the 2018 London Film Festival.

More recently Napoleon cut episodes 2, 4 and 6 of See-Saw Films and Apple TV+ mini-series THE ESSEX SERPENT with director Clio Barnard. Napoleon’s latest project is the feature adaptation of Debroah Levy’s surrealist novel SWIMMING HOME, expected to be released later this year.

Coti K. - composer

Costantino Luca Rolando Kiriakos, born in Milan, Italy in 1966, moved to Greece at the age of 6, where, since the mid eighties, better known simply as Coti K. (pronounced Koti Kappa), has been involved in various Athens pioneering electronic bands.

He has released several solo records, written music for film, theatre, dance theatre and TV adverts. Working as a musician, composer, installation artist, record producer/engineer and sound designer he has collaborated with many artists including Tuxedomoon, Dimitris Papaioannou, ILIOS, Dennis Iliadis, Yorgos Lanthimos, Babis Makridis, Nikos Veliotis, Raining Pleasure, Mikael Delta and others.

He has performed live electronics and/or double bass in Greece and Europe both solo and with various projects.

Since 2014 his solo work is focused in writing and singing songs under the monicker ‘The Man from Managra’ and has released 3 records since.

In 2016 he was nominated for the Hellenic Film academy Awards for best music, and again in 2019 which he won. In 2019 he also won the Beijing International Film festival Award for best film music.

Cast

Josef	CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT
Vito	ANASTASIOS ALEXANDROPOULOS
Isabel	MACKENZIE DAVIS
Laura	NADINE LABAKI
Nina	FREYA HANNAN-MILLS
Kitti	ARIANE LABED
Ponywoman	TZEF MONTANA
Marcos	MICHALIS GOUMAS

Crew

Written and directed by JUSTIN ANDERSON

Based on the novel *Swimming Home* by DEBORAH LEVY

Produced by ANDY STARKE
EMILY MORGAN
GIORGOS KARNAVAS
Producers MARCOS TELLECHEA
PAULA LINHARES

Co Producers LEONTINE PETIT
ERIK GLIJINIS

Director of Photography SIMOS SARKETZIS
Production Designer MYRTE BELTMAN
Editor NAPOLEON STRATOIANNAKIS

Music by COTI K
Sound Designer NARDI VAN DIJK
Re-recording Mixer MAX VAN DE OEVER
Casting Director SHAHEEN BAIG
Choreographer CANDELA CAPITAN
Costume Designer OLIVER GARCIA
Hair and Make Up Designer STELLA SOUELLE
KATERINA VARTHALITOU



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