

J'existe (foutez-moi la paix)

cabaret de **Pierre Notte**

/ PRESENTATION



PRELUDE

The “pole” is the brainchild of Lee Fou Messica and Ludovic Michel.

Since September 2000, Lee Fou Messica (Les Déchargeurs) and Ludovic Michel (Herbe Tendre Productions) have joined forces in running Les Déchargeurs Theatre and in developing innovative cultural projects.

In October 2007, Herbe Tendre Productions is re-named the “pole”, a community based organisation, made up of several strands, each of which is dedicated to developing the various stages of an artistic project, in response to the cultural economy.

Their projects to date include :

- The pole “creation” : *L’Apprentissage*, Jean-Luc Lagarce
- The pole «distribution» : *Petit Ô* (children’s theatre), *Le Puits* (children’s theatre), *PMB Trio* (jazz), *Swift* (music), *L’Apprentissage* (theatre), *J’existe (foutez-moi la paix)* (cabaret), re-run at the prestigious Rond Point Theatre, Paris
- The pole “media” : the creation of a visual identity and a graphic chart for paper, digital and internet use for both Les Déchargeurs Theatre and the Comédie Française, as well re-creating the internet site and creating an online boutique for the Comédie Française
- The pole “association” : the creation of an association in the town of Sarcelles, in the Parisian suburbs, whose aim is to create a cultural exchange between Sarcelles, Paris and Avignon, and to integrate culture into the community (as part of the Paris Metropole Program).

The pole « bookings »: creation of a telephone-based ticket booking system and the creation of a ticketless booking software at the service of theatres and theatre companies.

J'existe (foutez-moi la paix)

Text and music by Pierre Notte

Arrangements by Paul-Marie Barbier

Featuring Marie Notte, Pierre Notte and Paul-Marie Barbier (music)

Costumes by Christian Gasc

Lighting by Antonio de Carvalho

Sound designed by Clément Poisson

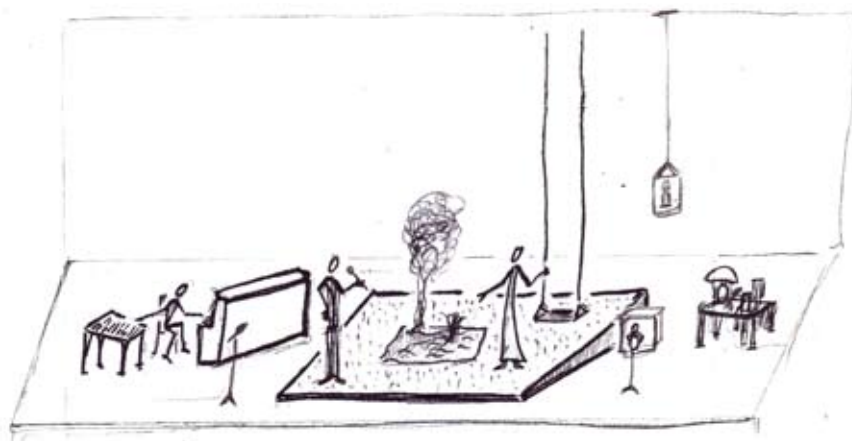
Translation by Emma Lingwood

A Les Déchargeurs/ Le Pôle production – Lee Fou Messica & Ludovic Michel



Résumé

The trio of J'existe (foutez-moi la paix) try to find a niche for themselves. How to be someone. An idol in the stars, a rotting corpse in the grave, a sidewalk whore. But who to be among so many others, how to hold one's own in the continuous struggle between love and fear of the other, before ending up in Venice. In seven acts or thirty songs, amongst whoopee cushions and garden gnomes, a little girl discovers that her name is worth something and that her life is worth living. A joyous, outrageous, colourful cabaret performed by three characters who sidestep the disasters incurred in their attempts to be someone as opposed to no-one. A show praised by critics as "theatre with a punch".



THE SHOW

(presentation)

Pierre Notte

Author, composer, director, actor



Born in Amiens in 1969, Pierre Notte leaves school at the age of 17 and starts his own theatre company. The company produces *La Ronde* by Schnitzler, as well as some of Pierre's own works, such as *La Maman de Victor* (recipient of an award from the jury of the Lisy-sur-Ourcq 1992 Theatre Festival), *L'Ennui d'Alice devant les arbres* and *Plutôt rouge velours*, presented at the European Theatre and the Theatre des Etoiles in Paris. Pierre produces and acts in *L'Opéra des girafes* by Prévert in Pau, where he lives for a number of months with a theatre troupe. Several part-time jobs later, Pierre becomes involved with the Hôpital Beaujon youth group in Clichy, with whom he does a number of theatre workshops and creates with his students a number of plays, including *Le Monde est plein de misères*. To this day, Pierre continues to work with young people and since 1998, has been in charge of theatre classes at Saint-Louis Saint-Clément High School, at Viry-Châtillon on the outskirts of Paris. Each year, his students have performed their end-of-year shows at prestigious Parisian venues, such as the Bastille Theatre and Les Déchargeurs. This year, with the support of the French Embassy in Japan, they will perform Pierre's *Pour l'amour de Gérard Philipe* at Tokyo's Cai Theatre in May.

As well as a journalist for respected French magazines such as *Le Nouvel Observateur*, *L'Événement du Jeudi* or *Paris-Photo*, Pierre is also the author of three poetry and photography collections, and two novels, *La Chanson de Madame Rosenfelt* and *La Nuit irrésolue*. Pierre however, has been writing essentially for the theatre since the beginning of the nineties. *Le Doigt d'Helmut*, *Journalistes* and *Clémence, à mon bras*, performed by Jacques Gamblin at the 2002 Avignon Theatre Festival¹ are just some of his early pieces.

In 2003, he receives a scholarship from the Centre National de Lettres² to encourage him in his work as a playwright. Since 2005, Pierre has been commissioned to write 5 plays for the radio station France Culture : *C'est de l'être parti qu'il s'agit*, *Sombre précurseur*-sitcom, *L'Etat de Gertrud*, *Se Mordre* and *Par la fenêtre ou pas*, performed by Jean-Claude Dauphin, Laurence Roy, Denis Lavant, Evelyne Didi, Marina Golovine and Jérôme Kirsher.

With the aid of the Beaumarchais Foundation³, his play *Moi aussi je suis Catherine Deneuve* is created in August 2005 at the Theatre de la Pépinière in Paris. The play is directed by Jean-Claude Cotillard and receives the 2005 Diane and Lucien Barrière Theatre Award⁴. *Moi aussi je suis Catherine Deneuve* also receives the 2006 Molière⁵ for the category "best play in a private theatre" and Pierre Notte is nominated in the "best author" category. The play has since been produced in Tokyo, Rome and in Sofia. He is also the 2006 SACD⁶ New Theatre Talent prizewinner. Following the success of *Moi aussi je suis Catherine Deneuve*, a new version of one of his earlier plays, *Journalistes* is re-created for the stage ; re-named *Petits barbares mondains*, the play is performed at the Tristan Bernard Theatre and is directed by Jean-Claude Cotillard.

Pierre writes, composes, directs and performs in *J'existe (foutez-moi la paix)* created at the Les Déchargeurs Theatre, Paris in August 2006. This cabaret also features his sister Marie. A selection of songs from the cabaret are presented by Pierre and Marie Notte at the Cai Theatre, Tokyo to coincide with the Japanese première of *Moi aussi je suis Catherine Deneuve*, in March 2007. One month previously, the play had its Italian première at the Teatro

... / ...



Sala Uno Theatre in Rome. *Anche lo Catherine Deneuve* is directed by Reza Keradman and following a successful run in 2007, is prolonged the following season. Directed by Vladimir Petkov, the play is also performed in Sofia, Bulgaria in February 2009. In France, the play is performed in Bordeaux at the Pont Tournant Theatre in 2008 and again in 2009, with a recital given by Marie Notte and Paul-Marie Barbier.

In the summer of 2007, Emmanuelle Bougerol directs Pierre's *Les Couteaux dans le dos* for the Festival Off at the Avignon Theatre Festival. The play is presented with the aid of the ADAMI⁷ and the SACD. In March of the following year, another play of Pierre's is presented at the Pépinière Theatre, Paris ; *Deux petites dames vers le nord* is directed by Patrice Kerbrat and features Christine Murillo and Catherine Salviat in the leading roles. The play has been translated into German, Russian and Japanese. *Deux petites dames* will have its Belgian première in 2009. In May 2008 at the Cai Theatre, Tokyo, Pierre presents *Dans la boue dans la boue*, a short piece of sung theatre, written, composed, directed and starring Pierre Notte, along with Marie Notte and Machiko Yanase on piano.

In November 2008, *Les Couteaux dans le dos* is programmed at a theatre in the Ginza district of Tokyo. *Pour l'amour de Gérard Philipe*, another of Pierre's pieces is also presented and performed in French at Tokyo's Cai Theatre. The show will be performed in Japanese in Spring 2009. *A la mémoire de Gérard Philipe* will also be performed in Tokyo by Pierre and Marie Notte and Machiko Yanase in April 2009.

For their 2009/2010 season, Les Déchargeurs Theatre have invited Pierre Notte to be their playwright in residence, to create and direct 6 plays that explore the theme of "the family". These include *Les Couteaux dans le dos*, directed by Pierre himself, *Le Cabaret des familles*, also written by Pierre, *Le Cabaret nottien*, a show conceived by Marie from the texts of Pierre Notte, *Bidules, trucs*, a piece of children's theatre and *Moi aussi je suis Catherine Deneuve*, directed by Vladimir Petkov will be performed in Bulgaria with French subtitles. Pierre's theatre students at the Saint-Louis Saint-Clément de Viry-Châtillon School will also present their end-of-year performance at Les Déchargeurs Theatre. Finally, a new version of *J'existe (foutez-moi la paix)* will be presented at the Rond-Point Theatre, Paris in conjunction with Pierre's residency at Les Déchargeurs.

Pierre Notte is on the board of several important, cultural committees including the Beaumarchais Association at the SACD, the reading committee of France Culture radio station, the juries of the Mimos Festival of Périgueux and of the Aneth Grand Prize for Dramatic Literature. He has been a member of France's Order of Arts and Letters since 2006 and since 2008 has been a member of the commission of the National Centre for Reading. At the request of Muriel Mayette, the administrator of the Comédie Française⁸, Pierre was elected secretary general in 2006 of this prestigious cultural institution.

Marie Notte

Actress, singer



Born in 1979, Marie Notte has been singing her brother's songs since the age of six. At the age of 15, she performs in *Les Variations autour de thème de L'Ennui* (d'Alice) and in *Plutôt rouge velours*, both cabarets written by her brother Pierre. She interprets the role of Marie in a preview of Pierre's *Moi aussi je suis Catherine Deneuve* at the Rond-Point⁹.

In 2003, she is invited by director and playwright David Noir, to join the company *La Vie est Courte*. She plays in *Les Innocents* in the 2003 and 2004 Avignon Off Festival. She also performs in *Terre !* at the Rond-Point Theatre and at Theatre 95 in Cergy.

In 2005, *Station*, a short play for 5 actors, written and directed by Marie Notte is performed at the New Talent Festival in Clichy. She also assists Yann Abram in the creation of his one-man show performed at the Espace St-Honoré from November 2005 to June 2006. Other projects include *Ligne de vie*, a short film directed by Isabelle Mattic and *Réssus-cités* at the Festival Ville Horizontale Ville Verticale in October 2008.

As part of his residency at the Les Déchargeurs Theatre for the 2009/2010 season, Pierre Notte has invited his sister Marie to create a cabaret, entitled *Le Cabaret Nottien* that will be presented in February 2010.

Paul-Marie Barbier

Musical arrangements



Discovering a love of piano at the age of 5, Paul-Marie Barbier begins his studies at the Conservatory of Vannes at 10 years old, before graduating several years later with certificates in piano, percussion and harmony. In Paris, he studies the vibraphone first under Philippe Macé at the Conservatory of the 9th arrondissement and then at the Paris Conservatory. An encounter with the guitarist/composer Pierre Kamlo Barré leads to the discovery of Django Reinhardt. Pierre Kamlo Barré encourages him to play on stage and invites him to perform with his trio, along with Franck Winterstein and Claude Mouton.

Paul-Marie soon discovers the theatre and is awarded the Paris New Talents Award in 2003 for his score for the play *Kids* by Fabrice Melquiot.

In 2003, Paul-Marie also makes the acquaintance of Pierre Notte for whom Paul-Marie will transcribe and arrange a musical comedy as well as accompanying Pierre and Marie Notte on *J'existe (foutez-moi la paix)*, created at Les Déchargeurs Theatre in September 2006.

At the same time, Paul-Marie pursues his love of jazz, and in particular gypsy jazz, with the Kamlo Quartet as well as Rodolphe Raffalli and more recently with Hervé Pouliquen, Hervé Legeay and Fred Loiseau. Paul-Marie creates his own jazz trio, The PMB Trio in 2007. Following the release of the album *Saison 1*, the trio go on tour to the Middle East with dates in Doha, Abu Dhabi and Muscat.

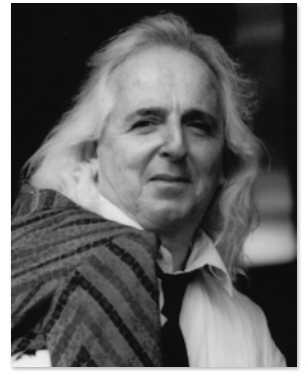
Musicians in residence at the Les Déchargeurs Theatre since March 2008, the trio, made up of Laurent Guillet on guitar, Mathieu Bloch on double bass and David Georgelet on drums, are currently working on a new album *Goodbye Hedgehog* due for release, spring 2009.

Christian Gasc

Costume designer

Awards

Festival International Cinéma Costumes et Mode **2006**
Molière for Costume Design for *Lady Windemere's Fan* at the Palais Royal Theatre **2003**
César¹⁰ for Costume Design for *Le Bossu* de P. De Broca **1998**
César for Costume Design for *Ridicule* by P. Leconte **1997**
César for Costume Design for *Madame Butterfly* by F. Mitterand



Christian Gasc has worked as costume designer on the international stage and is equally at home with theatre as he is with opera. He has worked with theatre and film directors as renowned as Jean-Baptiste Sastre, David and Frédéric Alagna, Benoit Jacquot, André Téchiné, Bertrand Blier, Patrice Leconte, to name but a few.

For the cinema, he has created costumes for numerous films over the years, including : *Tosca* and *Sade*, directed by Benoit Jacquot, *Les Egarés* and *Les Soeurs Bronte* directed by André Téchiné, *Rue des plaisirs* and *La Veuve de Saint Pierre*, directed by Patrice Leconte and for the film *Daddy Nostalgie* by Bertrand Tavernier.

For the opera, he has worked on productions as varied as *Marius*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Manon Lescaut* and *The Ring*, in venues such as The Scala, Milan, Bunka Kaikan, Tokyo and the Théâtre de Châtelet, Paris, collaborating with directors such as Roberto Alagna, Jonathan Miller and Isabelle Partiot.

For the theatre, he has created costumes for Cocteau's *Le Bel indifférent*, Feydeau's *Un chapeau de paille d'Italie*, Marivaux's *La Surprise de l'amour* and Wilde's *Lady Windemere's Fan*, for which he was awarded the Molière for best costume-designer in 2003.

"Talent is like charm, one never really knows what makes one charming or talented but Christian Gasc is both talented and charming at the same time, although I admit I would find it difficult to explain why or how. Because he was born amidst swatches of fabric ? Because he has an eye for colour and for detail ? Because he is refined ? Because for him nothing is impossible ? Because he likes white wine ? These are surely some of the reasons although there are many more. How many films, operas and plays has he designed costumes for ? 40 ? 60 ? 100 ? Maybe more. . . I have often seen him tired but I have never seen him jaded. For me, this is the mark of a true artist – someone who loves his career and manages to do his job with the same passion over the years"

Patrice Leconte¹¹.

Text extracts

(«2008 december
the 6th» version)



Catherine D.

" From now on, I am Catherine Deneuve,
Place Saint-Sulpice, that's where I'm headed
with my Yves Saint-Laurent bag,
From now on, I'll read Le Clezio and Solzhenitsyn.
I will live my life Catherine Deneuve-ly,
I was, I am, I will be Catherine Deneuve. De-fi-ne-te-ly."

Je fume

" I thought this morning about death . . .
and about getting my hair cut.
But when? "

Nietzsche

" . . . remember at first, you were a man, a man, a man
With fortune and fame
Now you're just a corpse, a corpse, a corpse,
honey, do you feel the same?
. . . So tell me Nietzsche, Nietzsche
Can you explain this fucking change? "

Love is bullshit

Him : Love is a shitty disease that you can catch anywhere
from whatever bench and from whoever
just like any other shitty disease
Love is itchy and scratchy and burns and paralyses
It stings and hurts your eyes
It makes your body cold, and then hot,
it's scary and then it passes
And it leaves you completely washed out

Presse extracts

Télérama

" A show full of life" / Joshka Schidlow

inrockuptibles

" Pierre Notte provides us with a pin-up
of his favourite stars " / Patrick Sourd

**FIGARO
SCOPE**

" A hilariously offbeat and touching show "
/ Jean-Louis Pinte

Le Parisien

"Astounding Pierre Notte . . . A whirlwind tour in seven
scenes that touches on every subject : family, love,
the other and death . . . Brimming with life"
/ Marie-Emmanuelle Galfré

Obs

"Bewitching, this cabaret of enfants terribles"
/ Jacques Nerson

LesEchos

" Pierre Notte helps us decipher the noughties
with his whimsical satire " / Gilles Costaz

Valeurs

" The Gods of Talent were certainly generous with Pierre
Notte . . . A cabaret full of charm " / Jacques Nerson

La Terrasse

"Entertaining comedy that illustrates the condition of the
modern man" / Catherine Robert

pariscope

"Imagination abounds in this feast where humour is
served as the main dish" / Marie-Céline Nivière

Glossary of terms

¹ Avignon Theatre Festival : the internationally renowned Avignon In and Off Theatre Festival is one of France's oldest annual festivals, founded by Jean Vilar in 1947.

² Centre National des Lettres : created in 1973, the aim of this organisation is to support and promote French authors and French literature.

³ The Beaumarchais Foundation : the aim of this foundation is to promote French literature and to support the creation of new literary works.

⁴ Diane and Lucien Barrière Theatre Award : an award given by the Diane and Lucien Barrière Foundation to promote new writing in theatre, film and literature.

⁵ The Molière Ceremony Award : Ceremony of Awards for the best artists of living shows with categories such as best actor, best actress, best adaptation of a foreign play, etc... created by directors Jean-Michel Rouzière and Jérôme Hullot – The US equivalent is The Tony Awards Ceremony (Antonette Perry Awards)

⁶ S.A.C.D. : the Society of Authors and Drama Composers is an organisation committed to protecting the rights to more than 45,000 works by French playwrights and authors, as well as promoting new works in both France and overseas.

⁷ ADAMI : consisting of a council made up of 34 members elected for a period of 3 years, the aim of ADAMI is to protect the copyright of artists both on a national and international level. It is also concerned with promoting French arts overseas.

⁸ La Comédie-Française : located in the heart of Paris, the Comédie Française is the only state theatre to have its own troupe of actors. The theatre was founded in 1680 and today has a repertoire of over 3,000 works.

⁹ Le Rond-Point : located near the Champs-Élysées, this Parisian theatre was founded in 1839. Today the theatre is committed to presenting works by contemporary playwrights.

¹⁰ The Césars Award : the Césars Awards are the French equivalent of the Oscars, created by Georges Cravenne in 1975.

¹¹ Patrice Leconte : French film director and screenwriter. Films include : *Les Bronzés*, *Ridicule*, *Tango*, *Girl on the Bridge*, and *Man on the Train*.

¹² CDN : The equivalent of a public theatre. There are 33 in France, the directors of which are elected by the French Minister for Culture.

les déchargeurs / le pôle productions

theatre

- *L'Apprentissage*, by Jean-Luc Largarce, directed by Sylvain Maurice, in collaboration with the CDN of Besançon Franche-Comté. Created Paris, 19/08/08 – nominated for the 2009 Molière in the public theatre category.
- *Mes Os et Barrabas*, by and with Bénabar Siba, directed by Ludovic Michel, Les Déchargeurs Theatre, 2005 and 2006.
- *S.t.t.d.*, by Marie Chavelet, directed by Pascal Zelcer, at the Theatre du Renard, Paris, 2004.
- *La Nuit du thermomètre*, written and directed by Diastème, at the Marigny Theatre, Paris 2003. Nominated for the 2003 Molières for the categories best female (Emma de Caunes) and best male (Frédéric Andrau) talent.
- *Peppino*, by and with Bruno Ricci, directed by Mario Gonzales, Les Déchargeurs Theatre, Paris, 2003.
- *Marie-Ange*, based on the text *Les Valseuses* by Bertrand Blier, directed by Alexandra Dadier, Les Déchargeurs Theatre, Paris, 2003.
- *La Nuit du thermomètre*, written and directed by Diastème, at the CDN, Nice, 2001.
- *La Nuit de Marina Tsvétaeva*, by Valéria Moretti, directed by Michaël Lonsdale, L'Isle St Louis Theatre, Paris, 2001.
- *Stabat Mater*, by Antonio Tarantino, directed by Ludovic Michel, Les Déchargeurs Theatre, Paris, 2000.

music

- *J'existe (foutez-moi la paix)*, written, composed, arranged and directed by Pierre Notte, Les Déchargeurs Theatre, Paris, 2006.
- *Jack et le haricot magique*, by Georges Dupuis, composed by Philippe Manca, directed by Oscar Sisto, performed at Le Temple Theatre, Paris, 2006.
- *Miss Knife chante Olivier Py*, lyrics Olivier Py, music by Jean-Yves Rivaud, with Olivier Py as Miss Knife, Jean-Yves Rivaud on piano, Julien Jolly on drums and Matthieu Dalle on double-bass, at the Café de la danse, Paris, 2005. National tour: Avignon Theatre Festival (In) at the Municipal Theatre, Le Scarabée at the St Quentin Theatre (Scène Nationale), Caen Theatre (Scène Nationale), and at the Comédie de Valence (CDN).
- *Alex Beaupain*, Les Déchargeurs Theatre, Paris, 2005.
- *Diastème in concert*, Les Déchargeurs Theatre, Paris, 2005.
- *Jack et le haricot magique*, by Georges Dupuis, composed by Philippe Manca, directed by Oscar Sisto, concert at the Casino de Paris, 2005.
- *Jack et le haricot magique*, by Georges Dupuis, composed by Philippe Manca, directed by Oscar Sisto, Les Déchargeurs Theatre, Paris, 2004 and 2005.

CDs

- *J'existe (foutez-moi la paix)*, written, composed and arranged by Pierre Notte, Paris, 2006.
- *Jack et le haricot magique*, lyrics by Georges Dupuis, music by Philippe Manca, narrated by Antoine de Caunes, Paris, 2004.
- *Les Innocentes*, lyrics by René de Obaldia, music by Gérard Calvi, in association with Editions Métropolitaines, Paris, 2002.

DVDs

- *Miss Knife chante Olivier Py*, lyrics by Olivier Py, music by Jean-Yves Rivaud, with Olivier Py as Miss Knife, Jean-Yves Rivaud on piano, Julien Jolly on drums and Matthieu Dalle on double-bass, at the Café de la danse, Paris, 2005, in association with Pink TV.
- *La Nuit du thermomètre*, written and directed by Diastème, with Emma de Caunes and Frédéric Andrau, in association with Alamagordo Films and Paris Première, Paris, 2003.

2009/2010 creations and re-runs

- *J'existe (foutez-moi la paix)*, written, composed, arranged and directed by Pierre Notte, performed by Marie Notte, Pierre Notte and with Paul-Marie Barbier on piano, guitar and vibraphone, at the Rond-Point Theatre, Paris (new album and recording of the show to be released in October 2009).
- *Les Couteaux dans le dos*, written and directed by Pierre Notte, performed by Marie Notte, Caroline Marchetti, Flavie Fontaine, Manon Heugel, Jennifer Decker, at the Les Déchargeurs Theatre (from the 18/08 to the 24/10 2009) as part of Pierre's Notte's residency at Les Déchargeurs.
- *Arias with a Twist*, by Basil Twist with 6 puppeteers and Joey Arias subtitled show, at Les Déchargeurs Theatre as part of the Dorothy B. Williams Theater of New York's residency at Les Déchargeurs, Paris from the 12/01 to the 20/03 2010.
- Release of *Miss Knife chante Olivier Py* on DVD, lyrics Olivier Py, music Jean-Yves Rivaud, with Olivier Py as Miss Knife, Jean-Yves Rivaud on piano, Julien Jolly on drums and Matthieu Dalle on double-bass, recorded at the Café de la danse, Paris, in association with Pink TV.

les **dechargeurs.**
le **pôle.** fr

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