

Spotlight Youth Theatre Proudly Presents

Alice By Heart

Book by Steven Sater and Jessie Nelson Music by Duncan Sheik Lyrics by Steven Sater

Orchestrations by **Duncan Sheik**

Additional Orchestrations by **Simon Hale**

Vocal Arrangements by Jason Hart

Alice By Heart was first commissioned and produced by National Theatre Connections in 2012

Developed with the Assistance of Theatre Aspen, Aspen, Colorado

A workshop production of *Alice By Heart* was presented by New York Stage and Film Vassar at The Powerhouse Theater, Summer 2018

New York Premiere at the MCC Theater February 26, 2019 Artistic Directors: Robert LuPone, Bernard Telsey, & William Cantler Executive Director: Blake West

Director: Kenny Grossman

Musical Director: Elise W. Kurbat

Choreographer: Falin Taylor

Set Designer: Rob Adams

Costume Designer: Samantha Utpadel

Hair and Make-up Designer: Angel DeMichael

Assistant Director: Laine Kenly

Lighting and Sound Designer: Josh Hontz

Assistant Lighting Designer: Jessie Nessi

Properties Design: Vicki & Kenny Grossman

Light Board Operator: Jessie Nessi

Sound Mixer: Josh Hontz

Sound Playback / Spot Operator: Liam Davenport

Lobby Painting: Logan Swope

Today's *Alice By Heart* performance contains strobe light effects, smoking, and bomb sound effects.

Photography, video or audio recording of this show is strictly prohibited by law.

ALICE BY HEART

is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

The Cast of Alice By Heart

Alice Spencer / Alice
Alfred Hallam / White Rabbit / March Hare
Red Cross Nurse
Dr. Butridge / King of Hearts
Tabatha / Cheshire Cat
Harold Pudding / Mad Hatter
Angus / Caterpillar
Dodgy / Duchess
Clarissa / Queen of Diamonds
Nigel / Dormouse
Ensemble: Mock Turtles / Caterpillars / Soldiers / Cards / Londoners

The Alice By Heart Band

Elisa W. Kurbat	Conductor / Keyboard
Hannah Viquesney	Keyboard II (Cello)
Nico Viquesney	
Gage Diehl-Gonzales	Guitar
Lyla Grubb	Bass
Giada Rossi	Trumpet

Spotlight Youth Theatre Administrative Team

Artistic Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	
Managing Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	
General Manager for Spotlight Youth Theatre	
Graphic Designer, Headshot Photographer, & Webmaster	
Social Media Specialist	
Break-a-Leg Table Coordinator	
Production Photos	
Fundraising Committee	

Special thanks to **Doug Novotny**, **Chris Tepe**, the **Spotlight Youth Theatre Board of Directors**, and the **friends & family members** who volunteered to make this show so successful.

How Are We Doing?

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Please take a moment to complete our online survey. Your responses are greatly appreciated.

Please scan the code or type the link into any internet browser.

https://bit.ly/SYTSurvey



Note From the Director of Alice By Heart

Alice By Heart is about a book.

It's about youth and grief.

The setting is 1941 London during the Blitz.

The entire show takes place in an Underground Tube Station where Londoners would go to seek shelter from the bombings; and of course, the play takes us to...Wonderland.

We meet a group of people who are all dealing with the war in their own ways. One of them is Alice Spencer, a 15-year-old girl who dragged her best friend, Alfred Hallam, out of the rubble and to the safety of the shelter. We see her go back to the wreckage that used to be her house and find a book that she takes with her to the tube station.

The book she found is *Alice's Adventure's in Wonderland*. Alice and her beloved childhood friend, Alfred, would act out the book and play all of the different magnificent characters.

Though Alfred is stricken with tuberculosis, Alice keeps denying how ill he really is. She's convinced if only she can read to him, she can transport him—west of words—to their imagined Wonderland.

So Alice decides to sneak behind the quarantine curtain and read him the book. The overworked, cranky, and mean nurse, catches her and takes the book and rips out the pages.

Alice decides to recite the story to Alfred without the book—she knows it by heart. When she goes down the rabbit hole to Wonderland she takes the motley group of people in the Tube Station with her and they all transform into Wonderland characters. But with a twist

Alice's big struggle in the musical is with leaving childhood.

The Queen says to her "You hate the part that's tiny STILL in you. And yet, you want to hide within the child in you".

Alfred becomes the White Rabbit. In the book *Alice's Adventure's in Wonderland* the White Rabbit is chasing time. Always chasing time. In *Alice By Heart*, time is chasing the White Rabbit.

The cast and I had a lot of fun exploring the stories of all of the characters in this show. One fun thing we discovered is, Alice refuses to be a riddle without meaning.

The Mad Hatter recites the famous riddle "Why is a Raven like a writing desk?" in the play. There isn't supposed to be an answer.

But, there actually is an answer to the Hatter's riddle. Ask any cast member.

[Fun Facts: The songs "West of Words" and "Afternoon" were originally written for Spring Awakening. Notice how Steven Sater (Book and Lyrics) has a way of always using colors in his lyrics.]

A young street rat, Tabatha / Cheshire Cat, encourages Alice: "Sometimes we overcome, you know, just by going on."

So at the end of the story, Alice gathers up all the ripped pages (and sketches from Pudding) to bind them together one day and make a composite book. Through it all Alice thought one day this will all be over and everyone will get back to normal and think, they survived and won.

From this book perhaps she would meet the child who once she'd been.

Alice By Heart is complex with a lot of subtext, it's funny, sad and whimsical.

We hope you open up your hearts and your imagination and come with us as we all leap down the rabbit hole together.

Kenny

Alice By Heart Musical Numbers

Date: 1941 Place: London Underground, and of course, Wonderland

West of Words
Down the Hole
Still
Chillin' The Regrets
The Key Is
Those Long Eye's
Manage Your Flamingo
Sick To Death of Alice-ness
Brillig Braelig
Some Things Fall Away
Your Shell of Grief
Another Room In Your Head
Isn't It A Trial
Do You Think We Think You're AliceQueen of Hearts, King of Hearts, Company
I've Shrunk Enough
Still (Reprise)
Afternoon
Winter Blooms

Run Time: Alice By Heart runs about 90 minutes with no intermission.



Katerina Anderson (Tabatha / Cheshire Cat)

Katerina is delighted to be back on the Spotlight stage! She has had the privilege of performing in many incredible productions across the Valley. Recent favorites include Karen Smith in Mean Girls (Chaparral High School), Angie Dickenson in The Prom (Spotlight Youth Theatre), Carol Strong/Ensemble in Catch Me if You Can (Desert Stages Theatre), Alice Russell in Lizzie (Spotlight Youth Theatre), Morticia Addams in The Addams Family (Spotlight Youth Theatre – Zoni Nomination), Ensemble/Dance Captain in SpongeBob the Musical (Valley Youth Theatre), and a disciple in Godspell (Starlight Community Theatre – NYA Award). Katerina sends her biggest thanks to Kenny, Falin, Elise, and the entire crew for another incredible opportunity at Spotlight. She is also grateful to her family and friends for their constant love and support and to this phenomenal cast for making this experience one for the books!



Ava Case (Ensemble)

Ava is thrilled to be taking the stage for her second show at Spotlight! Ava is a 15-year-old sophomore who is passionate about anything theater! Some of Ava's past shows include *Mean Girls* and *Clue* at ACAA and *Moana Jr.* at Spotlight Youth Theatre. In her free time, Ava loves to sing, bake, and watch Disney movies with her pups. Ava would like to thank her family, especially her mom, dad, Mimi, and GMA for all the extra support throughout this whole journey and making this dream a reality! Enjoy Wonderland!



Rowan Cross (Ensemble)

Rowan Cross is excited to be wrapping up her sophomore year by making her debut appearance with Spotlight Youth Theatre. She loves performing and has also been in shows with Valley Youth Theater (VYT) as well as the Academy of Community Theater (ACT II) in Colorado Springs before moving to Phoenix. In addition to taking voice and dance lessons, Rowan is a part of the Lioness Choir at Mountain Ridge High School, a member of the Girls Varsity Basketball Team, and was also just elected as a Junior Class Rep. for next year's StuGo. Rowan is thankful to have this opportunity to continue doing what she loves, and she has really enjoyed being part of such a small cast and making such good friends at SYT.



Alexandrea Dwyer (Red Cross Nurse / Queen of Hearts)

Alexandrea Dwyer is a 12th-grade student at AAEC. This is Alexandrea's third production at Spotlight Youth Theatre. Alexandrea has performed in *The Prom, Beetlejuice, Hamilton, Mean Girls, Willy Wonka Jr, Sleeping Beauty Jr, Little Red Hen, Three Billy Goats Gruff,* and *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* She loves music and marine biology. Alexandrea would like to thank her great directors and cast. Alexandrea looks forward to performing in this production and hopes you enjoy the show!



Hope Estle (Angus / Caterpillar / Knave of Hearts)

Hope Estle is ecstatic to be returning to the Spotlight stage after her recent performance in *Anastasia* as the Tsarina. She is a current Theatre Education major at Grand Canyon University. Some of her favorite roles include Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods* (Centennial HS, ASUGammage HSMTA Finalist), Penny Sycamore in *You Can't Take it With You* (Centennial HS), Sharpay in *High School Musical* (Centennial HS), Mrs. Peacock in *Clue* (Centennial HS), and Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Centennial HS). Hope enjoys singing and making music in her free time and has just recently received first place at NATS regionals in Musical Theatre (McCloskey Voice Studios). She would like to thank the Spotlight team for their dedication to their performers, her fellow castmates for making this show as amazing as it is, and her friends and family for their constant support. Enjoy the show!



Joey Garcia (Harold Pudding / Mad Hatter / Knave of Spades / Mock Mock Turtle)

Joey just loves spending his evenings and weekends at the theater! It's really his very favorite thing. He is honored and beyond excited to be a part of this production of *Alice By Heart*. Some of his favorite roles have included: Evan Goldman – 13 the Musical, Earthworm – James and the Giant Peach, Lawrence - School of Rock, The White Rabbit - Alice in Wonderland, Billy - The Island of Dr. Libris and Young Will - Big Fish. Joey is 14 years old and an 8th grader at Oakwood Elementary and is looking forward to starting at Ironwood High School in the fall. Fun fact...last year he was nominated for an ariZoni Award for his leading role in *The Island of Dr. Libris*. Thank you to Kenny for the opportunity to be in this amazing show!



Andrei Igdanes (Dr. Butridge / King of Hearts / Jabberwock / Mock Turtle)

This is Andrei's seventh show with SYT. Some of his previous credits include Aaron Samuels in *Mean Girls* (ACAA), Gleb in *Anastasia* (SYT), and Nick in *The Prom* (SYT). He also enjoys gaming, playing piano, and traveling. He would like to thank Kenny, Lainey, Elise, and the rest of the production team for putting on a great production. He gives special thanks to his family, Kat, Cesar, and Olivia for always being there for him. He is grateful to be working among this talented cast!



Eeshan Kumar (Alfred Hallam / White Rabbit / March Hare)

Eeshan is so excited to be playing Alfred/White Rabbit in Spotlight's production of *Alice By Heart*! He was recently seen as Van in *Dog Sees God* (DST), Dmitry in *Anastasia* (SYT), and Benny in *Rent* (DST)! He would like to thank Kenny, Elise, and Falin for giving him such an amazing opportunity and for guiding him through his theater journey!



Addi Lauder (Ensemble)

Addi Lauder is so excited to be back on the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage. Addi's previous productions include *Runaways* (Ensemble) and *Lightning Thief* (Thalia, Dancer Ensemble). Addi would like to thank her friend Olivia, who got her into theatre, and Alex for her unwavering support, and always being there. She also thanks Kenny, Elise, and Falin for giving her this opportunity. Fall down the rabbit hole with us!



Sophia Mengel (Clarissa / Queen of Diamonds / Mock Mock Mock Turtle)

Sophia is so grateful to be a part of such a beautiful production! She is 16 and a sophomore at Ironwood High School. She would like to thank her mom, Tyler, Emily, and Maeve for constantly supporting and uplifting her. She would also like to thank the cast and crew of this show for all their hard work.



Markus Rosendahl (Nigel / Dormouse / Knave of Clubs)

Markus Rosendahl is so grateful to be a part of Spotlight Youth Theatre's production of *Alice By Heart*, making his mainstage debut! He made his debut in Spotlight's Studio in this season's *Playfest* as Jackson Durante in *The Making of Boystown the Musical*. Markus would like to give special thanks to his friends, family, and the whole production team for their unwavering support and fantastic opportunity.



Jay Schwab (Alice Spencer / Alice)

Jay is a 17-year-old senior, is active in Thespians and ABT's HyRev Troupe, and will be attending the ASU School of Music, Dance, and Theatre this fall. They are thrilled to be back for another production with the Spotlight community. Favorite performances at SYT include *Hair, Runaways, Playfest*, and *The Prom*. Thank you to Kenny for all the support and guidance over the years, and for trusting them with this amazing, beautiful role. *Alice By Heart* will forever hold a special place in their heart because "The secret, Alice, is to surround yourself with people who make your heart smile. It's then, only then, that you'll find Wonderland."



Shane Sedivy (Dodgy / Duchess / Mock Mock Mock Turtle)

This is Shane's third show at Spotlight Youth Theatre, playing ensemble in *Anastasia* and ensemble in *Runaways* in last year's season. You may have also seen him as Kodaly in Starlight Community Theaters production of *She Loves Me.* He would like to say thank you to his parents, his cast, his crew, and his amazing director Kenny Grossman.

Rob Adams (Set Designer)

Rob is excited to be set designing again for Spotlight this season! Rob grew up in an artistic household, where his father was a professional artist/painter. He spent many years working in art galleries, building frames, and setting up art shows. Rob attended art school at NAU where he earned his degree in Arts Management. He also enjoys building and refurbishing furniture. He has worked as a summer camp director, where he built decks, designed ropes courses, designed program sets, and built the Carnival and themed Snack Bar! Enjoy the show!

Angel DeMichael (Hair & Makeup Designer)

Angel is thrilled to add this clever and unique show to her Spotlight credits! She has designed 20+ shows for SYT over the past 16 years. Her favorites include *Guys and Dolls, Spring Awakening, Once on this Island, Annie Get Your Gun, Romeo and Juliet,* and most recently, *Lizzie.* Angel thanks everyone in the cast for being a joy to work with. A special thanks goes to Sam for being a wonderful collaborator, and for birthing Ixy, to whom I am forever grateful. And one more special shoutout to Joey for letting me play with battle wound makeup!

Kenny & Vicki Grossman (Director / Properties Designers)

Kenny and Vicki have been with Spotlight Youth Theatre from the very beginning and are excited to be a part of this amazing production. They are looking forward to all the productions in this incredible season. Kenny still loves eggs. To Jamie and Carly, "We love you and miss you." Thank you to the cast, crew, directors, designers, families, volunteers, and board members.

Josh Hontz (Lighting & Sound Designer)

Josh Hontz has worked as a designer and music director in the Valley since 2014. He graduated from the ASU School of Music and has received twenty-five AriZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence for his work. Josh's highlights from this season include music directing for *The Prom*, teaching technical theater classes in support of *Playfest 2024*, and mentoring Spotlight's youth to learn how to design for a production. Outside of show biz, Josh works as a systems administrator at Estrella Mountain Community College. Thank you for supporting local theater!

Lainey Kenly (Assistant Director)

Lainey is thrilled to be working on this production. She has only been seen on stage and never behind the scenes, however she says this experience has been so important and special to her. Lainey would specifically like to thank Kenny for entrusting her to work and learn from him. Until working with Kenny, Lainey had no idea how much work goes on behind the scenes of a show and is now so grateful to learn and be a part of the unseen magic. She says the cast and crew have been so wonderful and everyone should tell their friends and families to come see *Alice By Heart* at Spotlight Youth Theatre!

Elisa W. Kurbat (Music Director)

Elisa is thrilled to be back at Spotlight Youth Theatre! Elisa is a music director, pianist, conductor, and arranger. Elisa grew up in Cleveland, Ohio where she went to Kent State University for Criminology and then Baldwin Wallace Conservatory for piano and voice. While in Ohio, Elisa played piano professionally for Mansfield Orchestra, while maintaining a full piano and vocal studio. Elisa currently works full time at Arizona School for the Arts in the Theatre Arts Department where she teaches musical theatre and continues to maintain her private vocal studio. Many thanks to the entire production team and cast of *Alice By Heart*!

Falin Taylor (Choreographer)

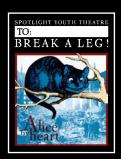
Falin is so thrilled to have been a part of this beautiful show! Starting as a youth performer at SYT, Falin now works as a choreographer for SYT Company's performance troupes (Celebration and Evolution), and multiple shows around the valley, including: *The Lightning Thief* (ariZoni award), *Moana Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, (ariZoni nominations), *Oklahoma!* and *Anastasia*, all here on the Spotlight stage! On stage she's been seen as Spot Conlin (*Newsies*), Cassie (*A Chorus Line*), and Lulu in *Cabaret*. Outside of choreographing, Falin works as the Bar Manager for Drunk Shakespeare here in Phoenix! She sends gratitude to this incredibly talented cast, Kenny, Elise, Lainey, the crew, and all of SYT. Enjoy!

Samantha Essary Utpadel (Costume Designer)

Samantha has been costuming shows around the Valley for over ten years. Favorite credits include *Green Day's American Idiot* ('Zoni), *Once, Guys and Dolls, Miracle on 34th Street* ('Zoni), *The Lightning Thief, Cabaret, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and *Gypsy*. Thanks to the SYT team for creating a supportive, welcoming, and fun environment to explore the arts. Much love to my family including the Princess Aurora!



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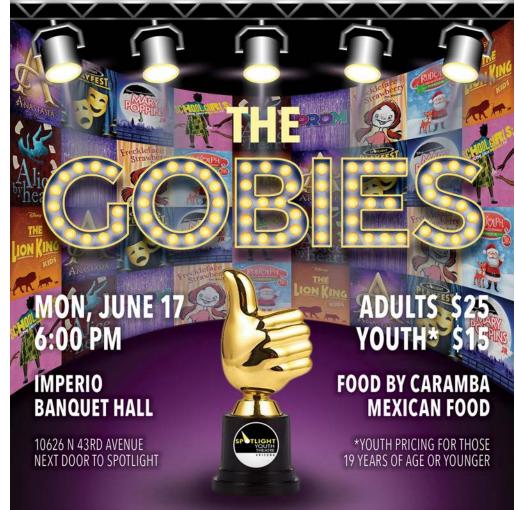






The actors, crew members, and directors love it, and all proceeds are channeled directly back into the theatre to support amazing programs such as this one. Stop by the "Break-a-Leg" table in the theatre lobby to brighten someone's day!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR 2023-2024



WALK-IN PATRONS ARE WELCOME; HOWEVER, THE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD CANNOT BE GUARANTEED, SO PLEASE REGISTER EARLY • NO-FOOD TICKET: \$10

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Join us in HONORING the actors, technicians, directors, parents, and volunteers who helped make Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2023–2024 season such a huge success! Every show and actor who performed on the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage is nominated for a coveted "GOBIE" award!

SYT props, posters, and memorabilia will be raffled off! Come celebrate with us!

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Session 1 • June 3-7



TROLLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN!

Embark on a whimsical journey into the enchanting world of trolls through singing, acting, and creative play!

Session 2 · June 17-21



BRICK BY BRICK: A THREE LITTLE PIGS ADVENTURE

Storytelling, acting, and hands-on fun!

Session 3 • July 8-12



SUPERHERO ADVENTURES

Your little ones will discover their superpowers through dramatic play and musical fun!

Session 4 · July 22-26



MIXED-UP FAIRYTALES

Weaving together classic fairytales in a delightful and funny mixed-up journey!

Designed specifically for toddlers ages 3–7, SYT's Little Actors Academy combines the joy of music, movement, and imagination to create an unforgettable theatrical experience!

Little Actors Academy classes are one-week in length, Monday through Friday, 9AM - Noon.



Tuition for each one-week class is \$175. For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit sytaz.org.

Spotlight Youth Theatre

10620 N 43rd Ave • Glendale, AZ 85304 • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org



EAT, SLEEP, THEATRE CAMP, REPEAT!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2024 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

JUNE 3-14



The past is not what it seems...Or is it? Conjure up freezing snow and ice as well as beautiful songs and dancing in an enchanted land and help restore the peace.

JUNE 17–28



In this live action Barbie musical, stereotypical Barbie and Ken must travel from their matriarchal theatre society in the East Valley to perform at a Youth Theatre in the West Valley. Along the way they learn fantastic musical numbers and make new friends.

JULY 8–19



Is she at the game? Is she at the show? When an "Anti Hero" threatens to take over this camp we might be in for a "cruel summer". T-Swizzle knows that "bad blood" on a youth theatre stage causes a "lahak space". But Tay decides to "shake it off" and with the help of the Swifties, sings and dances and challenges the "Anti Hero" and saves the day in "style.

JULY 22-AUGUST 2



Knowhere Youth Theatre and their beloved band of misfit actors are back after the pandemic and are on a mission to help protect the theatre galaxy. Join us on this musical comedy adventure and help celebrate youth theatre as we know it.

During each session of Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2024 Summer Theatre Camp, actors will learn the shows and then perform for families and friends!



Tuition is \$500 per two-week session; \$450 if registered on or before April 30, 2024.

M-F 9AM-3PM • Ages 8-18 • Sibling and multiple-session discount available

Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt • Before-and-after care available

To register, please visit sytaz.org/summer2024

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

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Iamie Dillon Grossman

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Thank You

to Spotlight's Generous and Dedicated Donors:

Ticket sales and production fees cover only a fraction of Spotlight Youth Theatre's overall operating costs. The Board of Directors of Spotlight Youth Theatre is grateful for the generosity of our dedicated donors, whose support ensures our ongoing ability to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged through high quality performing arts and educational programs that enrich and strengthen our community.

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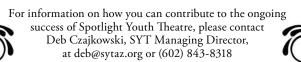
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Spotlight Youth Theatre's mission is to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged through high quality performing arts and educational programs that enrich and strengthen our community.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's vision:

- 1. A program grounded in the belief that every child deserves a chance to shine, a place that is safe and free from negativity, and an environment where fun and hard work combine into amazing experiences, both on and off stage.
- 2. A theater program that is as diverse as the community we serve and where all members of the family can join in the endeavor to produce high quality theater productions that amaze and entertain
- 3. A place where a child can be their authentic self, exploring the creative arts without fear, and be embraced and encouraged to grow and flourish.



Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2023–2024 season is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Partial funding for Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2023–2024 season provided by the City of Phoenix Flash Grants Program.



Spotlight Youth Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non–profit Community Youth Theatre

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