**LAWRENCE HELMAN PUBLIC RELATIONS – E MAIL -** [**heytheresells@gmail.com**](mailto:heytheresells@gmail.com)

**M- 415- 336- 8220 *(DO NOT PUBLISH THIS #)***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 30, 2023**

**PRESS PAGE:** [**https://www.sfmt.org/press-breakdown**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-breakdown)

**PRESS PHOTOS:** [**https://www.sfmt.org/press-photos**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-photos)

**The San Francisco Mime Troupe (SFMT) returns to doing what they love and do best:   
LIVE FREE Political Musical Theater in Bay Area and Northern California parks.**

**The Tony Award-Winning San Francisco Mime Troupe Opens their 64th Season with:**  
***BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**

**Sometimes it’s not all just happening in your mind.**

**July 1 - Sept. 4, 2023**

[**sfmt.org**](http://www.sfmt.org)

[**facebook.com/sfmimetroupe**](https://www.facebook.com/sfmimetroupe)

[**instagram.com/SFTroupers**](http://www.instagram.com/SFTroupers)

[**twitter.com/SFTroupers**](https://twitter.com/SFTroupers)

**Schedule by Date:** [**sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-dates**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-dates)

**Schedule by Area:** [**sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-area**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-area)

***(Schedules can be accessed on the SFMT press page):*** [**https://www.sfmt.org/press-breakdown**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-breakdown)

***BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**

**Sometimes it’s not all just happening in your mind.**

**Subject of the show**:

In an insane society how can we help those struggling with actual mental illness? And who is driving the country insane? The social worker drowning in the bureaucracy needed to help their unhoused client?  
The news anchor, who feeds anxiety with “breaking news” of daily atrocities and political scapegoating rather than the real “Who, What, Where and Why?” We will meet them and more in our new comedy musical aptly titled: *BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical. Sometimes it’s not all just happening in your mind.

**Short Synopsis**:

Yume lives on the streets of increasingly intolerant San Francisco, but that doesn’t mean all her issues can be solved by a passionate social worker. In a City that seems to have more paperwork than compassion help is always just around the Kafkaesque labyrinthine corner! But that doesn’t mean San Francisco is the hellhole of progressivism up-and-coming Fox News commentator Marcia Stone portrays to the rest of the country. But whether it’s an individual, a bureaucracy, or a national sanity, everything is headed for a… Breakdown.

**Longer Synopsis**:

For most of the citizens of increasingly intolerant San Francisco a young woman like Yume living on the streets seems “crazy,” but maybe Yume is just ahead of the curve. Unbalanced? Unhinged? Nuts? In a country that has clearly lost its mind, what do any of those words mean anymore? As her social worker tries to navigate the Kafkaesque labyrinth of city bureaucracy Yume is on her own quest to regain what has been taken from her.

But up-and-coming FOX News commentator Marcia Stone has no problem with being at the vanguard of driving the nation around the bend. It’s her key to getting a nightly slot on the network, and if she can give her viewers a focus for their fear, a hellhole of depravity and failed policies so much the better! And where better than the filthy, dangerous streets of San Francisco to illustrate for her bosses and audience the depths to which the progressives have dragged us? If only she could find a person on those streets… someone to personify America’s…Breakdown.

***BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**

**is written by:** **Michael Gene Sullivan with Marie Cartier**

**Director: Michael Gene Sullivan**

**Music & Lyrics Daniel Savio**

**Music Director: Daniel Savio**

**The show runs 80 min. – no intermission**.

***BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**features a five-person cast that includes veteran SF Mime Troupe collective member: **Andre Amarotico**(*Mr. Stereós*);who is joined by **Jamella Cross** (*Marcia Stone*); **Alicia M. P. Nelson** (*Saidia*); **Jed Pasario** (*Felix*); and **Kina Kantor** (*Yume*).

And SFMT Band: **Breakfast** (*Keyboard, Guitar, Sax*); **Guinevere Q** (*Bass*); and **Jason Young** (*Drums, Percussion*).

**Bios:** [**https://www.sfmt.org/press-bios**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-bios)

*All actors and the stage manager appear through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association,*

*the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

**To arrange an interview with writers, actors, or anyone from the SF Mime Troupe Collective,   
please call or e-mail publicist Lawrence Helman at 415-336-8220** [**heytheresells@gmail.com**](mailto:heytheresells@gmail.com)

**Tech credits for *BREAKDOWN* - A New Musicalinclude**:   
Scenic Designer: **Carlos Aceves**; Costume Designer: **Keiko Shimosato Carreiro**; Props: **Lena Seagrave**;   
Sound Designer / Engineer: **Taylor Gonzalez**; Sound A2: **Miguel Wacher**; Sound A2: **Solstiz Ibarra-Camp**; Poster Design: **Pablo Mica**; Prod. Stage Manager: **Karen Runk**;Booking Coordinator**: Junelle Taguas-Utumoengalu** & **Andre Amarotico**; Publicity: **Lawrence Helman**;Photography: [**DavidAllenStudio.com**](http://www.davidallenstudio.com/).

***BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical plays July 1 – Sept. 4, 2023**

**Opening**: Sat. / Sun. July 1, 2 - Cedar Rose Park **- Berkeley   
Opening**: Mon. July 4, - Dolores Park - **San Francisco**

Running throughout the Bay Area in SF, Marin (Mill Valley), Ukiah (Mendocino), Cotati (Sonoma), East Bay, Palo Alto, Santa Cruz, San Jose, and Davis **July 1 – Sept. 4, 2023**.

**All shows are FREE and open to the public unless otherwise listed.**   
**Ticketed performance**: Z Space: Aug. 24, 2023 (Thurs.).

**Some shows will require RSVPs**: Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall: Aug. 3 (Thurs.);   
SFMT Studio Back Lawn in SF: Aug 16 (Sun.).

For a complete schedule and more information, visit [**sfmt.org**](http://www.sfmt.org) or call **415-285-1717**.   
Additional info on SFMT and community organizations is made available at information tables at each of our park shows.

**Character Descriptions:**

**Marcia Stone - 30’s.** An up-and-coming star at FOX News, Marcia is slick, smart, and knows that the easiest way for a Black woman to get ahead in modern political commentary is to be a voice of conservatism.

**Yume - 20’s.** Unhoused and suffering from schizophrenia, Yume is trapped between the madness of the streets, the ineffective system that fails to help her, and the demons that pursue her as she tries to solve the mystery of her past.

**Saidia - 20’s**. A social worker. A passionate advocate for the clients Saidia spends her days struggling against the Kafkaesque nightmare of city bureaucracy in a city that insists it cares.

**Felix - 30’s**. Living on the street since his teens, Felix is the consummate street entrepreneur, constantly trying every trick and scam he can come up with to get on the escalator to capitalist success.

**Mr. Stereós - 60’s.** The owner of a corner store in the Tenderloin. A survivor who has seen it all.

**Brad - 40’s.** A TV new producer

**Q: Why do you call yourself a Mime Troupe if you talk and sing?**

We use the term “mime” in its classical and original definition, "The exaggeration of daily life in story and song." It is a form of popular theater that is as old as the marketplace itself. From the ancient Greek and Roman farces to the Renaissance commedia dell'Arte to modern Chinese Opera, using archetypes comically to illustrate people's issues is a time honored worldwide tradition. Our broadly drawn characters are instantly recognizable allowing the audience to immediately engage in the action. **Our work is political satire and anything but silent.**

**News - SF Mime Troupe 2023:**

**1.** **NEW COLLECTIVE MEMBER** - The SFMT Collective is pleased to announce the addition of **Andre Amarotico** as its newest member. Aside from his talents as a gifted performer, Andre is a man of many talents and has already shown himself to be a resourceful and thoughtfully engaged Trouper. Jumping right in, Andre spearheaded the funding, procurement and installation of an HVAC system to offer future live performances and events in our studio. Good natured, generous in spirit and actively informed, Andre is an excellent representative of SFMT values.

**2.** **MURAL RESTORATION ON SFMT BUILDING -** Since 1985, the westward facing exterior wall of 855 Treat Avenue in San Francisco’s Mission District has been adorned with **Para las Rosas / For the Roses**, a vibrant mural by the gifted artist [Juana Alicia](https://juanaalicia.com/). The Mural marks both the current home of the 64-year-old San Francisco Mime Troupe (SFMT) and that of its predecessor, Fantasy Records, where comic Lenny Bruce and Jazz greats Dave Brubeck, Paul Desmond, Cal Tjader, Vince Guaraldi, Mongo Santamaria and many others recorded. It is a beautiful homage to the place that has produced exceptional music, comedy and theater for over seven decades.

Sadly, over the years, the mural’s colors had faded to the point where certain aspects of it were not even recognizable. In 2023 Juana Alicia restored this historic work of art by using newer techniques and longer lasting paint. Juana Alícia’s core team included the artist, Juana Alícia, SF Mime Troupe General Manager and Collective member Ellen Callas, SF Heritage's Kerri Young, and SFMT Board Member, Susan Segal. And additional support of Anastacia Powers, Brava for Women in the Arts, and Lanita Henriquez with the Community Challenge Grant. **There will be a celebration commemorating the completion of the mural restoration Summer 2023, date TBD.**

**3. MICHAEL GENE SULLIVAN NEWS** - Michael Gene Sullivan is a Collective Member, actor, director, and as Resident Playwright has written or co-written over 30 plays for the San Francisco Mime Troupe. He has also performed with all four of the Bay Area’s Tony award-winning theaters: SFMT, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Rep., and Theatreworks. He has performed, directed, or written plays for SF Playhouse, California Shakespeare Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company, Marin Theatre Co., Aurora Theatre Co., Magic Theatre, TheatreFirst, Lorraine Hansberry Theater, African American Shakespeare Co., and the SF Shakespeare Festival. Michael Gene Sullivan’s stage adaptation of George Orwell’s classic dystopian novel 1984 had its world premiere at the Actor’s Gang Theatre, under the direction of Academy Award-winning actor Tim Robbins. 1984 has since been produced throughout the USA, as well as in Hong Kong, Australia, and countries across Europe and South America. The adaptation is published in two languages, translated into five, is currently running at the state theatre of Ukraine in Kyiv, and in Fall 2023 will make its Bay Area premiere at the Aurora Theatre.

Michael also authored the critically-acclaimed *The Great Khan* which had its world premiere at SF Playhouse and San Diego Rep. Michael was awarded the Getting Played: Equity in the Entertainment Industry Award at Stanford University, and was honored as one of TBA’s "40 Faces," artists who've made significant contributions to the Bay Area theater community. Michael is also an alumnus of the Playwrights Foundation, a 2022 Creative Work Fund grantee, a Djerassi Arts Fellow, and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for Drama. [michaelgenesullivan.com](http://michaelgenesullivan.com/)

***4. BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**has been made possible by contributions from

The Don Stevens Laugh and Love Fund; California Arts Council, Grants for the Arts; and Individual Donors.

**SF MIME TROUPE HISTORY:** [**sfmt.org/press-history**](http://sfmt.org/press-history)

**Calendar Editors:**

**WHAT:**  **San Francisco Mime Troupe presents…**

***BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**

**Sometimes it’s not all just happening in your mind.**

**Subject of the show**:

In an insane society how can we help those struggling with actual mental illness? And who is driving the country insane? The social worker drowning in the bureaucracy needed to help their unhoused client?  
The news anchor, who feeds anxiety with “breaking news” of daily atrocities and political scapegoating rather than the real “Who, What, Where and Why?” We will meet them and more in our new comedy musical aptly titled: *BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical.

**Synopsis**:

Unbalanced? Unhinged? Nuts? In a country that has clearly lost its mind what does “insane" even mean? For most a young woman like Cassandra living on the streets may seem crazy - it certainly seems so to her social worker - but maybe Yume is just ahead of the curve. And if so, who is driving us all to the point of… Breakdown?

**TIX:** All shows are **FREE and open to the public** **unless otherwise listed.**   
**Ticketed performance**: Z Space: Aug. 24 (Thur.).

**Some shows will require RSVPs**: Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall: Aug. 3 (Thurs.); SFMT Studio Back Lawn in SF: Aug 16 (Sun.).

**The show runs 80 min. – no intermission**.

**For more info. call 415- 285 -1717** or visit[**sfmt.org**](http://www.sfmt.org)

**VENUES:** SFMT performs in parks & some theatres throughout the Bay Area in SF, Marin (Mill Valley),

Ukiah (Mendocino), Cotati (Sonoma), East Bay, Palo Alto, Santa Cruz, San Jose, and Davis

**July 1 – Sept. 4, 2023**.

**INFO: Call 415- 285 -1717 or visit** [**sfmt.org**](http://www.sfmt.org)

**PRESS PAGE:** [**https://www.sfmt.org/press-breakdown**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-breakdown)

**PHOTOS:** High-resolution photos for ***BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**

can be accessed at [**https://www.sfmt.org/press-photos**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-photos)

**WEB PAGE:** [**sfmt.org**](http://www.sfmt.org)

**SFMT Promo:** [**youtube.com/watch?v=FGXjsVWv1rM**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGXjsVWv1rM)

**Schedule by Date:** [**sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-dates**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-dates)

**Schedule by Area:** [**sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-area**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-area)

***(Schedules can be accessed on the SFMT press page):*** [**https://www.sfmt.org/press-breakdown**](https://www.sfmt.org/press-breakdown)

**CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING - by Date -**

**SF MIME TROUPE SCHEDULE SUMMER 2023-- *BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**

**Opening Weekend (East Bay & San Francisco)**

**Cedar Rose Park**

Sat., July 1 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**   
Sun., July 2 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) ($20 suggested donation)

[1300 Rose & Chestnut Sts., Berkeley 94702](http://www.google.com/maps?q=1300+Rose+St.+%25252526+Chestnut+St.,+Berkeley,+CA)

**Dolores Park - Opening Day**

Tues., July 4 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

[19th & Dolores Sts., San Francisco 94110](http://www.google.com/maps?q=18th+St.+%25252526+Dolores+St.,+San+Francisco,+CA)($20 suggested donation)

**St. James Park**

Sat., July 8 - 3:00 pm show (Music 2:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

3rd & St. James Sts., San Jose, 94110 ($20 suggested donation)

**Balboa Park**

Sun., July 9 - 2:00 pm show (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

3200 Folsom St., San Francisco, 94110 ($20 suggested donation)

**Todd Grove Park**

Fri., July 14 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

[600 Live Oak Ave. (at Clubhouse Dr.), Ukiah 95482](http://www.google.com/maps?q=180+Camino+Alto+(at+East+Blithedale),+Mill+Valley,+CA) ($20 suggested donation)

**SF Mime Troupe - Back Lawn**

Sun., July 16 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info:** **FREE / Must RSVP:**

855 Treat Ave. (b/t 21 & 22 Sts.), San Francisco 94110 [***sfmt.org/855treatrsvp***](http://sfmt.org/855treatrsvp)

($20 suggested donation)

**Lakeside Park - (Lake Merritt) *in front of the Edoff Memorial Bandstand***Wed., July 19 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

Thurs., July 20 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30) ($20 suggested donation)

[Bellevue Ave. & Perkins Sts., Oakland 94610](http://www.google.com/maps?q=Bellevue+Ave.+%25252526+Perkins+St.,+Oakland,+CA)

**Live Oak Park**

Sat., July 22 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**  
Sun., July 23 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) ($20 suggested donation)

[Shattuck Ave. & Berryman St., Berkeley 94709](http://www.google.com/maps?q=Shattuck+Ave.+%25252526+Berryman+St.,+Berkeley,+CA)

**Mill Valley Community Center, on the Back Lawn**

Thurs., July 27 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

[180 Camino Alto (at East Blithedale), Mill Valley 94941](http://www.google.com/maps?q=180+Camino+Alto+(at+East+Blithedale),+Mill+Valley,+CA) ($20 suggested donation)

**Yerba Buena Gardens**

Sat., July 29 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

745 [Mission & 3rd Sts., San Francisco 94103](http://www.google.com/maps?q=Mission+St.+%25252526+3rd+St.,+San+Francisco,+CA) ($20 suggested donation)

**Glen Park**

Sun., July 30 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**  
[Chenery & Elk Sts., San Francisco 94131](http://www.google.com/maps?q=Columbus+%25252526+Union,+San+Francisco,+CA) ($20 suggested donation)

**Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall - (Indoor show)**

Thurs., Aug. 3 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30) **Ticket Info: FREE / Must RSVP:**  
315 W 14**th** St., Davis 95616[***sfmt.org/davisrsvp***](http://sfmt.org/davisrsvp)

($20 suggested donation)

**Washington Square Park**

Sat., Aug. 5 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

Filbert St & Stockton Sts., San Francisco, 94133($20 suggested donation)

**Mitchell Park Bowl**

Sun., Aug. 6 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**  
600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto 94036 ($20 suggested donation)

**La Plaza Park (Downtown)**

Sat., Aug. 12 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**  
Old Redwood Hwy (at West Sierra Ave), Cotati 949361 ($20 suggested donation)

**Precita Park**

Sun., Aug. 13 - 2:00 pm show (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

3200 Folsom St.., San Francisco, 94110 ($20 suggested donation)

**London Nelson Community Center - Outdoors**

Sat., Aug. 19 - 3:00 pm show (Music 2:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**

Sun., Aug. 20 - 3:00 pm show (Music 2:30) ($20 suggested donation)

301 Center St., Santa Cruz 95060

**Z Space**

Thurs., Aug. 24 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30) **Ticket Info: $20**

450 Florida St., San Francisco 94110 [***zspace.org/sfmt***](http://zspace.org/sfmt)

**Willard Park**

Sat., Aug. 26 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**  
Sun., Aug. 27 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) ($20 suggested donation)  
[Hillegass Ave. & Derby Sts., Berkeley 94705](http://www.google.com/maps?q=Hillegass+Ave.+%25252526+Derby+St.,+Berkeley,+CA)

**Peacock Meadow in Golden Gate Park**

Sat., Sept. 2 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**  
240 [JFK Drive & Peacock Meadow, San Francisco 94117](http://www.google.com/maps?q=JFK+Drive+%25252526+Peacock+Meadow,+San+Francisco,+CA)  ($20 suggested donation)

(Btw’n. Panhandle and Conservatory of Flowers)

**Dolores Park**

Sun., Sept. 3 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) **Ticket Info: FREE**  
Mon., Sept. 4 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) (Labor Day) ($20 suggested donation)  
[19th & Dolores Sts., San Francisco](http://www.google.com/maps?q=18th+St.+%25252526+Dolores+St.,+San+Francisco,+CA) 94110

###

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE by AREA:**

**- SF MIME TROUPE SCHEDULE SUMMER 2023** - ***BREAKDOWN* - A New Musical**

***Opening Weekend -***

Sat., July 1 Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 2 Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

***Opening Day -***

Tue, July 4 Dolores Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

**ALL SAN FRANCISCO:**

Tues, July 4 Dolores Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 9 Balboa Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 16 SF Mime Troupe (*Back Lawn*)  1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

*Free – suggested donation $20 RSVP at* [***sfmt.org/855treatrsvp***](http://sfmt.org/855treatrsvp)

Sat., July 29 Yerba Buena Gardens 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 30 Glen Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sat., Aug 5 Washington Square Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., Aug 13 Precita Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Thurs., July 24 Z Space (Indoor Show) 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

*Tickets $20 –* [***zspace.org/sfmt***](http://zspace.org/sfmt)

Sat., Sept. 2 Peacock Meadow, Golden Gate Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., Sept. 3 Dolores Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Mon., Sept. 4 Dolores Park (**Final Show**) 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

**ALL EAST BAY:**

Sat., July 1 Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 2 Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Wed., July 19 Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt), Oakland 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Thurs., July 20 Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt), Oakland 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Sat., July 22 Live Oak Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 23 Live Oak Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sat., Aug. 26 Willard Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., Aug. 27 Willard Park, Berkeley  1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

**NORTH**:

**UKIAH:**

Fri., July 14 Todd Grove Park, Ukiah 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

**COTATI:**

Sat., Aug. 12 La Plaza Park (Downtown), Cotati 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

**MARIN:**

Thurs., July 27 Mill Valley Community Ctr.,(*Back Lawn*) 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

**DAVIS:**

Thurs., Aug. 3 Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

(Indoor Show) Free *– suggested donation $20 RSVP at* [***sfmt.org/davisrsvp***](http://sfmt.org/davisrsvp)

**SOUTH:**

**SAN JOSE:**

Sat., July 8 St. James Park, San Jose 2:30 pm music, 3:00 pm show

**PALO ALTO:**

Sun., Aug 6 Mitchell Park Bowl, Palo Alto 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

**SANTA CRUZ:**

Sat., Aug. 19 London Nelson Community Center (*Outdoors*), Santa Cruz

2:30 pm music, 3:00 pm show

Sun., Aug. 20 London Nelson Community Center (*Outdoors*), Santa Cruz

2:30 pm music, 3:00 pm show

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