athol fugard the island script Printable PDF

athol fugard the island script is a compelling theatrical piece that exemplifies the profound storytelling and social commentary for which South African playwright Athol Fugard is renowned. This powerful one-act play, first performed in 1973, explores themes of friendship, imprisonment, resistance, and the human spirit amidst the oppressive backdrop of apartheid-era South Africa. The script?s layered narrative and minimalistic staging have made it a significant work in the realm of political theatre, resonating with audiences worldwide and securing its place as a classic example of Fugard?s craft.

Introduction to Athol Fugard and The Island

Who is Athol Fugard?

Athol Fugard is a celebrated South African playwright, actor, and director known for his provocative and socially conscious works. His plays often focus on the struggles of individuals under apartheid, emphasizing themes of resistance, friendship, and human dignity. Over his prolific career, Fugard has written numerous influential plays, with The Island standing out as a landmark piece.

The Significance of The Island

The Island is regarded as one of Fugard?s most impactful works, illustrating the resilience of the human spirit in the face of systemic oppression. Set in a prison, the play uses minimalistic staging?primarily two prisoners and their interactions?to symbolize broader themes of freedom, hope, and defiance. Its success lies in its universal message and powerful storytelling, which continues to inspire audiences and artists around the globe.

Overview of The Island Script

Plot Summary

The Island centers around two black prisoners, John and Winston, who are incarcerated in a South African prison during apartheid. Their daily routines and conversations gradually reveal their backgrounds, hopes, and fears. The play unfolds as a series of dialogues and physical movements, with the prisoners engaging in a creative act of resistance by reenacting scenes from their past and imagining a different future.

The core of the play involves the prisoners performing a theatrical improvisation inspired by a classical Greek tragedy, Oedipus Rex. This act becomes a metaphor for their own

situation?challenging authority, questioning fate, and asserting their dignity despite oppressive circumstances.

Key Themes Explored in the Script

- Friendship and Solidarity: The bond between John and Winston is central, illustrating resilience through companionship.
- Oppression and Resistance: The play highlights the psychological and physical toll of apartheid, emphasizing acts of defiance.
- Imagination and Hope: The prisoners? use of storytelling and performance represents their hope for liberation and a better future.
- Human Dignity: Despite their confinement, the characters maintain their sense of self and moral integrity.

Structure and Style of Athol Fugard?s The Island Script

Minimalistic Staging and Symbolism

The Island is renowned for its minimal set design, which typically features just two chairs and a few props, symbolizing the prison environment. This simplicity encourages the audience to focus on the actors? performances and the emotional depth of the narrative.

Use of Physical Theatre

Fugard employs physical theatre techniques, such as movement and mime, to depict scenes and emotions. This approach enhances the storytelling, making the abstract themes more visceral and engaging.

Dialogue and Monologue

The script balances dialogue with monologues, allowing characters to express their inner thoughts and reflect on their circumstances. The interplay of spoken words and physical action creates a rhythmic and immersive experience.

Key Scenes and Their Significance

Scene 1: Introduction and Establishing Friendship

This opening scene introduces the characters, their backgrounds, and the dynamics of their relationship. It sets the tone for the play?s exploration of camaraderie amidst adversity.

Scene 2: Reenacting Greek Tragedy

The prisoners perform a scene from Oedipus Rex, which serves as a powerful allegory. It symbolizes their own struggle against fate and authority, highlighting themes of inevitable suffering and the quest for truth.

Scene 3: The Act of Rebellion

The characters? physical movements and dialogues become acts of silent resistance, challenging the oppressive system and asserting their humanity.

Scene 4: Reflection and Hope

Towards the end, the play emphasizes the prisoners? hope for freedom, emphasizing that despite their confinement, their spirits remain unbroken.

Impact and Legacy of The Island

Political and Cultural Significance

The Island served as a form of protest against apartheid, illustrating the power of theatre as a tool for social change. Its universal themes of resistance and human dignity have made it relevant beyond South Africa, inspiring other political plays and movements.

Critical Reception and Awards

The play received widespread acclaim for its authentic portrayal of prison life and its innovative theatrical techniques. It has been performed internationally, earning numerous awards and recognitions, including the Obie Award for Best Play.

Influence on Theatre and Activism

The Island influenced countless playwrights and activists, demonstrating how art can confront injustice. Its success encouraged other artists to explore politically charged themes through innovative staging and storytelling.

Analyzing the Script: Key Literary and Dramatic Elements

Language and Dialogue

Fugard?s use of simple, direct language enhances the realism of the characters? experiences. The

dialogue often contains poetic undertones, enriching the emotional impact.

Character Development

- John: Represents resilience and hope, often acting as the voice of optimism.
- Winston: Embodies introspection and doubt, adding depth to the narrative.

Their interactions illustrate how friendship can serve as a means of survival.

Symbolism in the Script

- The Performance: Symbolizes resistance and the human desire for freedom.
- Physical Movements: Represent the prisoners? inner struggles and aspirations.
- Greek Tragedy: Serves as a mirror to their own suffering and resilience.

Conclusion: The Enduring Relevance of Athol Fugard?s The Island Script

The Island remains a testament to the enduring power of theatre as a form of resistance and storytelling. Athol Fugard?s masterful script combines minimalistic staging, profound themes, and compelling characters to create a work that transcends its historical context. Its relevance continues today, reminding audiences worldwide of the importance of human dignity, solidarity, and hope in the face of oppression.

Whether studied in academic settings or performed on stage, The Island offers valuable insights into the human condition and the transformative potential of art. Its legacy endures as a shining example of how theatre can challenge injustice and inspire change?making Athol Fugard?s script a timeless piece in the landscape of political and social theatre.

Athol Fugard The Island Script: A Deep Dive into a Landmark of Political Theatre

Introduction

Athol Fugard The Island script stands as a powerful testament to the transformative power of theatre in confronting societal injustices. Written by South African playwright Athol Fugard in 1973, The Island is a compelling piece that explores themes of oppression, resilience, and human dignity amid the brutal realities of apartheid-era South Africa. Through its minimalistic staging and profound narrative, the play has cemented its place as a cornerstone of political theatre, inspiring generations of artists and activists worldwide.

The Origins of The Island: Context and Inspiration

Historical and Political Backdrop

To fully grasp the significance of The Island, it is essential to understand the socio-political climate of South Africa in the early 1970s. During this period, apartheid?an institutionalized system of racial segregation?was at its height. The regime enforced strict laws that marginalized non-white populations, particularly Black South Africans, denying them basic rights and freedoms.

Fugard, a keen observer and critic of this oppressive system, sought to use theatre as a platform to challenge the status quo. His plays often combined political commentary with personal stories, aiming to humanize those dehumanized by apartheid policies.

The Play?s Genesis

The Island was conceived as a response to the imprisonment of two anti-apartheid activists, Nelson Mandela and Robert Sobukwe. Fugard envisioned a play that would highlight the resilience of political prisoners and the humanity that persists despite systemic brutality. Originally, the play was devised with two actors performing on a bare stage, emphasizing the universality and intimacy of the story.

Fugard collaborated with actor John Kani and his brother Winston Ntshona, both of whom had experienced imprisonment under apartheid. Their personal insights and performances brought authenticity and emotional depth to the production, transforming it into a potent form of resistance.

The Structure and Content of The Island

Minimalist Staging and Symbolism

One of the defining features of The Island is its minimalist staging. The entire set comprises two chairs, a wall, and a few simple props, representing the prisoners? cell and the outside world. This stripped-down approach serves multiple purposes:

- Focus on Performance: The absence of elaborate scenery directs attention to the actors? performances and the story?s emotional core.
- Universal Appeal: The minimalism makes the play adaptable to different contexts and audiences worldwide.
- Symbolism of Confinement: The sparse set underscores themes of imprisonment, both literal and metaphorical.

Narrative Arc and Themes

The Island centers on two political prisoners, John and Winston, who are confined in a prison cell. The play unfolds through their dialogues, reminiscences, and fantasies about freedom and life beyond their incarceration. Key themes include:

- Resilience and Hope: Despite their circumstances, the characters maintain hope and humor, illustrating the indomitable human spirit.
- Friendship and Solidarity: The bond between John and Winston exemplifies collective resistance and mutual support.
- Oppression and Humanity: The play explores how systemic injustice attempts to strip individuals of their dignity, yet their inner humanity persists.

The narrative also incorporates moments of role reversal, where the prisoners reenact scenes from their past or imagine their lives outside prison, emphasizing the resilience of the human mind and spirit.

The Play?s Impact and Reception

Political and Cultural Significance

The Island transcended its theatrical boundaries to become a symbol of resistance against apartheid. Its compelling portrayal of political prisoners humanized their plight, garnering international attention and moral support for the anti-apartheid movement.

The play's structure?featuring only two actors?made it accessible and portable, allowing it to be performed clandestinely or openly in various contexts. Its success in South Africa and abroad helped galvanize opposition and foster empathy across racial and cultural divides.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Critics lauded The Island for its emotional depth, inventive staging, and powerful message. The play received numerous awards and was performed worldwide, inspiring adaptations and similar works addressing injustice.

Moreover, the collaboration between Fugard, Kani, and Ntshona highlighted the importance of authentic voices in political theatre. Their performances were not merely artistic expressions but acts of defiance and solidarity.

The Script: Key Elements and Analysis

Language and Dialogue

The dialogue in The Island is characterized by its simplicity and poetic rhythm. Fugard?s language captures the resilience and humor of the characters, balancing moments of despair with hope. The exchanges often include:

- Repetition: Emphasizing themes of perseverance.
- Humor: Providing relief and humanizing the characters.
- Imagery: Evoking vivid scenes of freedom, memory, and longing.

Role of the Actors

Given the play?s minimalistic design, the actors assume multiple roles and perform physical transformations to distinguish scenes. Their performances rely heavily on:

- Voice modulation: To convey different emotions and characters.
- Physicality: To symbolize different settings or states of mind.
- Chemistry: The dynamic between the two actors enhances the play?s emotional resonance.

Script as a Political Tool

Fugard?s script intentionally blurs the lines between personal narrative and political statement. It employs storytelling techniques that evoke empathy and provoke reflection, making it an effective tool for social change.

The Play?s Enduring Relevance

Lessons for Contemporary Theatre

The Island exemplifies how theatre can serve as a catalyst for social awareness and change. Its success has inspired countless playwrights and performers to create works that challenge injustice and amplify marginalized voices.

Relevance in Today?s Context

While The Island was rooted in apartheid South Africa, its themes resonate globally?addressing issues like political imprisonment, racial discrimination, and human rights violations. Its message of resilience and hope remains pertinent in contemporary struggles for justice.

Conclusion: A Landmark of Political Theatre

Athol Fugard The Island script stands as a masterful work that combines artistic innovation with political activism. Through its minimalist staging, compelling narrative, and powerful themes, the play continues to inspire audiences and artists worldwide. It exemplifies how theatre can be a mirror to society?s injustices and a beacon of hope, reminding us of the enduring strength of the human spirit in the face of oppression. As a landmark of political theatre, The Island remains a vital piece of cultural history and a call to action for justice and dignity for all.

QuestionAnswer What is the main theme of Athol Fugard's 'The Island'? The main theme of 'The Island' is the resilience of the human spirit amidst oppression and injustice, highlighting themes of friendship, hope, and resistance under apartheid South Africa. Who are the characters in 'The Island' and what roles do they play? The play features two prisoners, John and Winston, who share a cell and develop a deep bond, representing the resilience of human dignity and the struggle against systemic oppression. What is the significance of the play's title, 'The Island'? The title symbolizes both the literal prison setting, isolated like an island, and the metaphorical idea of mental and emotional resilience, survival, and hope in an oppressive environment. How does 'The Island' reflect Athol Fugard's political views? 'The Island' reflects Fugard's opposition to apartheid and his belief in the power of dignity, resistance, and humanity in the face of systemic racial oppression. Is 'The Island' based on real events or stories? While not based on a specific real event, 'The Island' is inspired by the experiences of political prisoners and the broader social realities of apartheid-era South Africa. What are some notable staging or performance elements of 'The Island'? 'The Island' is often performed with minimalistic staging, using two actors to portray multiple characters and emphasizing dialogue, physicality, and symbolism to convey its themes. How does 'The Island' explore the relationship between the two main characters? The play explores their evolving friendship, mutual support, and shared resilience, highlighting themes of solidarity and hope under oppressive circumstances. What is the role of symbolism in the script of 'The Island'? Symbolism in 'The Island' is used to represent hope, freedom, and the human spirit, often through the characters' interactions with the environment and their imaginative escapes. Where can I find the script of 'The Island' for study or performance? The script of 'The Island' can be purchased through licensed publishers, such as Samuel French or Dramatists Play Service, or accessed through theatrical resource libraries. Why is 'The Island' considered an important work in South African theatre? Because of its powerful commentary on apartheid, its innovative minimalistic staging, and its universal themes of resistance and humanity, 'The Island' remains a significant and influential piece in South African theatre history.

Related keywords: Athol Fugard, The Island, play script, South African theater, apartheid drama, theatrical script, Fugard plays, South African playwright, The Island play, Fugard theater works

ISLAND WORLD BOOK DAY 2017

Island World Book Day 2017

Island World Book Day 2017: Celebrating Stories from Every Shore

island world book day 2017 was an exciting and memorable celebration that brought

together readers, authors, and educators in a unique tribute to the rich tapestry of island literature and cultures. This special event highlighted the incredible stories and voices emerging from island nations and communities around the globe, emphasizing how literature connects diverse worlds and fosters a deeper understanding of island life. Whether you?re a passionate reader, a teacher, or simply curious about island narratives, island world book day 2017 o?ers valuable insights into the power of storytelling rooted in island experiences.

What Was Island World Book Day 2017?

Island World Book Day 2017 was a distinctive literary event focused on celebrating books, authors, and stories from islands worldwide. Unlike typical book days that might highlight general themes or popular authors, this event zoomed in on the unique perspectives and cultural richness that island literature brings to the global stage. From the Caribbean to the Paci?c, and from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, island communities have a wealth of stories that highlight their history, struggles, traditions, and vibrant cultures. The day featured a variety of activities including author readings, book signings, workshops, and school visits. These activities were designed not only to promote literacy

but also to encourage a deeper appreciation for island heritage and the role literature plays in preserving it.

The Importance of Celebrating Island Literature

Islands often have distinct cultures shaped by their geographies, histories, and interactions with other regions. This uniqueness translates into literature that o?ers fresh narratives and perspectives often overlooked in mainstream literary discussions. Celebrating island literature through events like island world book day 2017 helps to:

Preserve Cultural Identity

Island stories often carry oral traditions, folklore, and local myths that are integral to a community?s identity. By promoting these stories in written form, island world book day 2017 helped preserve these narratives for future generations, ensuring that island heritage is not lost amid globalization.

Highlight Environmental and Social Issues

Many island communities face challenges like climate change, rising sea levels, and economic hardships. Literature from islands provides a poignant lens through which readers can understand these issues from a personal and localized perspective. The event brought attention to such themes, encouraging readers to engage with real-world problems through storytelling.

Encourage Diverse Voices in Publishing

Islands often have underrepresented voices in mainstream publishing. Island world book

day 2017 was a platform to amplify these voices, giving island authors exposure and encouraging publishers to invest more in diverse literary works.

Key Activities and Highlights of Island World Book Day 2017

The 2017 celebration was marked by a variety of enriching activities that engaged audiences of all ages.

Author Talks and Readings

Renowned island authors from di?erent parts of the world participated in readings and discussions. These sessions allowed attendees to hear directly from writers about their creative processes and the inspirations behind their works. Such interactions made literature more accessible and personal.

Workshops for Students and Educators

Many schools took part in island world book day 2017 by organizing workshops that encouraged children to write their own island-inspired stories. Educators received resources and lesson plans designed to weave island literature into their curriculum, fostering a lifelong love for reading and cultural awareness.

Book Exhibitions and Signings

Libraries and bookstores across participating regions hosted exhibitions showcasing a wide range of island literature?from historical novels and poetry to contemporary ?ction and children?s books. These events often included book signings, making it a special occasion for fans to meet their favorite authors.

Why Island World Book Day Matters Today

More than just a one-time event, island world book day 2017 paved the way for ongoing appreciation and exploration of island narratives. In an increasingly interconnected world, understanding the stories of island communities helps bridge cultural gaps and promotes empathy.

Fostering Global Connections Through Stories

The event demonstrated how stories from small, sometimes isolated places have universal appeal and relevance. Readers everywhere can relate to themes of identity, resilience, and belonging?common threads in island literature.

Supporting Sustainable Tourism and Local Economies

By highlighting island cultures through literature, island world book day 2017 also contributed indirectly to sustainable tourism e?orts. When tourists engage with authentic narratives, they are more likely to respect local traditions and contribute positively to island economies.

How to Continue the Spirit of Island World Book Day

If island world book day 2017 inspired you, there are many ways to keep the celebration going throughout the year.

Explore Island Authors: Seek out books written by island authors or about island

1.

life. Diverse genres and voices can deepen your understanding of these unique cultures.

Host Your Own Event: Whether it?s a book club meeting or a community reading,

2.

celebrating island literature locally can spark interest and foster connections.

Incorporate Island Literature in Education: Teachers can include island stories

3.

in their lessons to enrich students? cultural knowledge and global awareness.

Support Island Publishers and Bookstores: Purchasing from local island

4.

publishers helps sustain the literary ecosystem and encourages more island stories

to be told.

Island World Book Day?s Legacy in the Literary World

Since 2017, the enthusiasm generated by island world book day has in?uenced literary festivals, publisher initiatives, and educational programs worldwide. It has helped normalize the presence of island voices in literary conversations and brought attention to the nuanced, often poetic ways island writers address universal human experiences.

The event reminded the global community that islands are not just beautiful geographical spots but vibrant centers of culture and creativity. Their stories deserve to be heard, celebrated, and preserved.

For readers and writers alike, island world book day 2017 remains a beacon encouraging exploration beyond the mainland and into the heart of island worlds through the magic of

books.

Question

Answer

What is Island World Book

Day 2017?

Island World Book Day 2017 was a special event

celebrating literature and reading on islands,

encouraging island communities to participate in book-

related activities and promote literacy.

When was Island World Book

Day 2017 celebrated?

Island World Book Day 2017 was celebrated on April 27,

2017, coinciding with the global World Book Day

events.

What was the main theme of

Island World Book Day 2017?

The main theme of Island World Book Day 2017 focused

on island stories, authors, and promoting reading

culture within island communities around the world.

Which organizations

supported Island World Book

Day 2017?

Island World Book Day 2017 was supported by various

local libraries, schools, cultural organizations, and

publishers focused on island literature and education.

Were there any special events

or activities during Island

World Book Day 2017?

Yes, activities included book readings, author visits,

storytelling sessions, book fairs, and workshops tailored

to island cultures and literature.

How did Island World Book

Day 2017 promote local island

authors?

The event highlighted local island authors through

readings, book signings, and exhibitions, helping to

raise awareness about island literature.

Can schools participate in

Island World Book Day

events?

Yes, schools were encouraged to participate by

organizing reading sessions, book-related competitions,

and inviting authors to engage with students.

Where can I ?nd more

information about Island

World Book Day 2017?

Information about Island World Book Day 2017 can be

found on regional cultural websites, library portals, and

through organizations dedicated to island literature and

education.

Island World Book Day 2017: A Literary Celebration Across Borders

island world book day 2017 marked a signi?cant moment in the global literary

calendar, bringing together diverse island communities, authors, and readers to celebrate the power of storytelling. This unique event showcased the distinctive voices and narratives emerging from island cultures around the world, highlighting their contributions to literature and reinforcing the importance of books as cultural connectors. As an initiative, Island World Book Day 2017 combined educational activities, literary festivals, and community engagement to foster a deeper appreciation of island literature and its global resonance.

The Genesis and Purpose of Island World Book Day 2017

The concept of Island World Book Day was conceived as a platform to amplify the often

underrepresented voices of island writers and readers. While traditional book days focus on mainstream literary cultures, Island World Book Day 2017 sought to carve out a niche emphasizing island-speci?c narratives?ranging from the Caribbean and Paci?c islands to Mediterranean and Nordic archipelagos. This focus was not incidental; island communities have historically grappled with issues of isolation, cultural preservation, and identity, making their stories uniquely compelling within the literary landscape.

By 2017, the event had grown from a small regional celebration into an international observance, supported by libraries, schools, and cultural institutions worldwide. The day aimed to encourage reading among youth and adults alike, stimulate creative writing, and promote intercultural dialogue through literature.

Key Activities and Highlights

Island World Book Day 2017 was characterized by a wide array of activities tailored to diverse audiences:

Author Readings and Panels: Renowned island authors participated in readings

1.

and discussions, o?ering insights into their writing processes and the thematic concerns of island literature.

Workshops and Educational Programs: Schools and libraries organized creative

2.

writing workshops focusing on island heritage, oral traditions, and contemporary

issues such as climate change and migration.

Book Fairs and Exhibitions: Special exhibitions highlighted rare island literature,

3.

indigenous manuscripts, and contemporary publications, fostering awareness of

island literary heritage.

Community Storytelling Sessions: Local storytellers engaged audiences with

4.

folktales and myths, bridging generational and cultural gaps.

These activities not only celebrated the written word but also emphasized the oral

traditions that remain integral to many island cultures.

Analyzing the Impact of Island World Book Day 2017

The impact of Island World Book Day 2017 can be assessed across several

dimensions?cultural, educational, and social. From a cultural standpoint, the event

provided a vital platform for island authors whose works often struggle to reach global

audiences due to geographic and market limitations. By spotlighting island narratives, the

event challenged dominant literary canons and expanded readers? horizons.

Educationally, the initiative was instrumental in promoting literacy and creative

expression among young islanders. Reports from participating schools indicated increased

student engagement with reading and writing activities, attributed to the relatable

content derived from their own cultural contexts. This localized approach to literacy

education contrasts with more generic programs and underscores the value of culturally responsive pedagogy.

Socially, Island World Book Day 2017 fostered a sense of pride and community cohesion. The event encouraged dialogue not only within island populations but also between island and mainland communities. This intercultural exchange helped dispel stereotypes and misconceptions, promoting a more nuanced understanding of island life and its complexities.

Island Literature in the Global Market: Challenges and Opportunities

Despite the successes of events like Island World Book Day 2017, island literature continues to face challenges in the global publishing market. Limited access to distribution networks, language barriers, and a lack of marketing support often hamper the visibility of island authors. Moreover, the niche categorization of island literature can sometimes marginalize it within broader literary discussions.

However, opportunities have emerged through digital publishing platforms and social media, enabling island writers to reach international audiences directly. Island World Book Day 2017 capitalized on these trends by promoting online reading campaigns and virtual author interactions, thereby extending its reach beyond physical events.

Comparative Perspectives: Island World Book Day Versus Other Literary Celebrations

When compared to other literary celebrations, such as World Book Day or National Book Week, Island World Book Day 2017 distinguished itself through its focused thematic lens.

While mainstream book days emphasize general literacy and reading encouragement, Island World Book Day underscored the particularities of island narratives and their socio-cultural contexts.

This speci?city allowed for a more tailored programming approach, addressing issues pertinent to island communities, such as environmental concerns, indigenous rights, and diasporic identities. Consequently, the event not only promoted reading but also facilitated critical conversations relevant to island realities.

Pros and Cons of the Island World Book Day Model

Pros:

1.

Enhanced visibility for marginalized island authors and stories.

1.

Promotion of cultural preservation through literature.

2.

Community engagement that combines education and entertainment.

3.

Encouragement of intercultural understanding and dialogue.

4.

Cons:

2.

Limited reach compared to larger, more established literary events.

1.

Resource constraints in smaller island communities a?ecting participation.

2.

Potential risk of pigeonholing island literature into a niche category, limiting

3.

crossover appeal.

These considerations highlight the delicate balance between celebrating unique cultural identities and integrating them within the broader literary ecosystem.

Legacy and Continuing In?uence

The legacy of Island World Book Day 2017 extends beyond the event itself. It catalyzed ongoing collaborations among island writers, publishers, and cultural organizations, leading to increased publication and promotion of island literature in subsequent years. The day also inspired similar initiatives in other regions, reinforcing the importance of place-based literary celebrations.

Furthermore, the event contributed to a growing recognition of island literature as a vibrant and essential part of world literature, encouraging academic inquiry and translation projects. The momentum generated continues to in?uence how island stories are valued and disseminated, ensuring that the voices from these unique geographies remain integral to global cultural conversations.

As the world continues to grapple with issues such as climate change, migration, and

cultural preservation, the narratives emerging from island communities?celebrated during Island World Book Day 2017?o?er critical perspectives and profound human insights that resonate universally.

Island World, Book Day 2017, World Book Day, Island-themed books, Book Day events 2017, Island literature, Children's book day 2017, Island stories, Reading celebration 2017, Book Day activities

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