

Annie Get Your Gun Film

Annie Get Your Gun: A Sparkling Look at the Celebrated Stage Musical on Film

Experience the vibrant energy of *Annie Get Your Gun*, brought to life on the silver screen! From dazzling musical numbers to compelling characters, discover why this film adaptation remains a timeless classic. Explore the various film versions and their unique charms. The stage musical **Annie Get Your Gun**, with its captivating story of sharpshooter Annie Oakley and her tempestuous romance with Frank Butler, has been adapted for the silver screen multiple times, each version offering a unique interpretation of Irving Berlin's iconic score and the compelling characters. While no single "definitive" film version exists, audiences consistently find enjoyment in the various adaptations, appreciating the evolution of cinematic techniques and the enduring appeal of the story itself. The film versions offer a chance to witness the celebrated musical's charm translated to a visual medium, bringing the flamboyant costumes, energetic choreography, and catchy tunes to life in ways a stage performance simply cannot. This will delve into the history and impact of the **Annie Get Your Gun** film adaptations, exploring their strengths and weaknesses, and examining the reasons for their ongoing popularity. Since there isn't a single universally agreed-upon "best" film adaptation with distinct advantages consistently highlighted over others, we'll explore related aspects of the film's legacy instead:

The Evolution of **Annie Get Your Gun** on Film

The earliest film adaptation of the musical premiered in 1950, starring Betty Hutton and Howard Keel. Subsequent versions, both for television and cinema, adapted the material in diverse ways, often cutting songs or altering scenes to suit the chosen format. For instance, the 1966 television adaptation starred Ethel Merman as Annie, bringing her own stage presence to the role. These variations highlight the fluidity of adapting stage musicals for film – a process that always requires compromises and creative decisions.

Year	Version	Lead Actress	Notable Aspects
1950	Feature Film	Betty Hutton	Classic Hollywood style, strong emphasis on musical numbers.
1966	Television Special	Ethel Merman	Merman's powerful vocal performance, different staging than the 1950 film.
1999	Television Film (re-adaptation)	Bernadette Peters	Contemporary interpretation, reflects changing social norms.

This table showcases the varied interpretations across different adaptations, emphasizing the evolving cinematic landscape and its impact on the musical's presentation. The 1950 film captures the charm of classic Hollywood musicals, while later adaptations reflect contemporary aesthetics and sensibilities.

The Musical Numbers: A Lasting Legacy

Irving Berlin's score is a cornerstone of the musical's enduring appeal. Songs like "Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)", "There's No Business Like Show Business," and "I Got Lost in His Arms" remain popular even today. The film versions have played a crucial role in popularizing these songs, bringing them to a wider audience through the visual medium. The choreography in these adaptations, whether mirroring the Broadway production or uniquely crafted for the screen, also contributes significantly to the overall impact and memorability of the musical numbers. The visual spectacle of these numbers, particularly in the 1950 version, reflects the technological advancements of its time and the creative vision of the filmmakers.

Annie Oakley: A Real-Life Inspiration

Annie Oakley's true story forms the basis of the musical, making it a fascinating blend of fiction and historical inspiration. Exploring her life beyond the musical provides additional context for understanding the character's development and the challenges faced by a female performer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Investigating Oakley's real-life achievements and comparing them to her portrayal in the film adaptations gives a richer understanding of the musical's themes and messages. This connection to historical fact enhances the viewing experience, offering a layer of depth that transcends the purely fictional elements of the story.

The Romantic Comedy: A Timeless Appeal

At its core, *Annie Get Your Gun* is a romantic comedy. The playful rivalry and eventual reconciliation between Annie and Frank provide a heartwarming narrative that resonates across generations. The film adaptations effectively capture this romantic dynamic, showcasing the chemistry between the lead actors and highlighting the comedic elements woven into the storyline. The comedic timing, both in dialogue and physical comedy, is a crucial factor in making the film adaptations enjoyable. The enduring popularity of the romantic comedy genre itself contributes to the continued appeal of the film versions of *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Conclusion

The various film adaptations of *Annie Get Your Gun* offer diverse perspectives on the beloved stage musical. While no single definitive version exists, each adaptation reflects the technological and cultural changes of its time, while still capturing the essence of the original's charm. The enduring appeal of Irving Berlin's music, the engaging romantic storyline, and the fascinating basis in a real-life sharpshooter's story all contribute to the enduring legacy of *Annie Get Your Gun* on the silver screen. Each version offers a unique viewing experience, emphasizing the enduring power and adaptability of this classic musical.

Advanced FAQs

1. **How faithful are the film adaptations to the original Broadway production?** The film adaptations vary in their faithfulness. Some closely follow the stage musical's plot and song selections, while others make significant alterations to suit the cinematic format or reflect changing times. 2. **Which film version is considered the most critically acclaimed?** Critical reception varies depending on the criteria used. The 1950 version is often praised for its classic Hollywood style, while later versions are appreciated for their own unique interpretations and contemporary relevance. 3. **What are the key differences between the Betty Hutton and Ethel Merman portrayals of Annie Oakley?** Hutton's portrayal leans more towards comedic charm, while Merman's is known for its powerful vocal delivery and commanding stage presence. 4. **How does the film's portrayal of Annie Oakley compare to her real life?** While the film's story draws inspiration from Oakley's life, it takes creative liberties. Her personality, relationships, and accomplishments are depicted through a theatrical lens. 5. **Are there any plans for future film adaptations of *Annie Get Your Gun*?** There are currently no confirmed plans for new film adaptations, although the enduring popularity of the musical suggests the possibility of future versions in the years to come.

Annie Get Your Gun: A Wild West Musical That Still Packs a

Punch

Ah, *Annie Get Your Gun*. Just the title itself conjures up images of dusty saloons, crackling gunfire, and a spirited woman who refuses to be tamed. This iconic Broadway musical, brought to life on the silver screen in 1950, is more than just a movie; it's a vibrant explosion of song, dance, and a legendary love story set against the backdrop of the American Wild West. Whether you're a seasoned musical theater aficionado or a curious newcomer, diving into the world of Annie Oakley and Frank Butler is an experience that's sure to leave you humming and perhaps even feeling a little inspired to aim high.

The 1950 film adaptation of *Annie Get Your Gun* is a Technicolor dream, a lavish production that captured the hearts of audiences and remains a beloved classic to this day. It tells the story of Annie Oakley, a sharpshooting country girl from rural Ohio, who is discovered by Buffalo Bill Cody and invited to join his Wild West Show. Her incredible talent with a rifle soon catches the eye of Frank Butler, the show's star marksman, and a legendary rivalry – and a blossoming romance – ensues.

The Enduring Magic of Irving Berlin's Score

One of the most significant reasons for *Annie Get Your Gun*'s lasting appeal is undoubtedly its unforgettable musical score. Composed by the legendary Irving Berlin, the songs are not just catchy tunes; they are integral to the storytelling, revealing character, advancing the plot, and brimming with wit and energy. Who can forget the sheer exuberance of **"There's No Business Like Show Business"**? This show-stopping anthem has become a staple of musical theater and Hollywood itself, a testament to its universal message about the allure and demands of the entertainment world. It perfectly encapsulates the spirit of the Wild West Show and Annie's own unshakeable pride in her talent.

But the score is far more than just one hit song. There's the rollicking **"Doin' What Comes Naturally,"** which perfectly captures Annie's unpretentious charm and her innate ability with a gun. Then there's the delightful **"Anything You Can Do,"** a spirited duet between Annie and Frank that showcases their competitive spirit and their undeniable chemistry. This song, in particular, highlights the playful banter and underlying attraction between the two protagonists, making their rivalry as much about seduction as it is about skill. Other gems include the yearning **"I Got Lost in Your Eyes"** and the humorous **"Old Fashioned Wedding,"** offering a delightful spectrum of emotion and storytelling.

Betty Hutton and Howard Keel: A Dynamic Duo

Stepping into the iconic roles of Annie Oakley and Frank Butler were Betty Hutton and Howard Keel. Hutton, known for her vivacious personality and powerful voice, is a force of nature as Annie. She imbues the character with a delightful blend of naive innocence and fierce determination, making her instantly lovable and utterly believable as a woman who can out-shoot any man. Her energetic performances, especially during the musical numbers, are captivating and perfectly embody the "showbiz" spirit of the film. She brings a genuine warmth and a fearless spirit to Annie, making her a true feminist icon long before the term was widely used.

Howard Keel, with his booming baritone and rugged charm, is the perfect foil for Hutton's Annie. As Frank Butler, he embodies the swagger and confidence of a seasoned performer, initially threatened by Annie's talent but ultimately captivated by her spirit. The chemistry between Hutton and Keel is palpable, making their sparring matches and their eventual romance incredibly compelling. Their duet performances are a particular highlight, showcasing their vocal prowess and their electric on-screen connection. They truly bring the classic love-hate dynamic to life with gusto.

Bringing the Wild West to Life: Production and Direction

The 1950 film adaptation of *Annie Get Your Gun* was a significant undertaking, boasting a lavish budget and a talented creative team. Directed by George Sidney, the film is a visual feast, with vibrant costumes, sprawling sets, and dynamic choreography. The movie faithfully recreates the excitement of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, complete with elaborate parades, thrilling reenactments of historical events, and, of course, Annie's breathtaking sharpshooting demonstrations. The use of Technicolor further enhances the spectacle, making the dusty plains and vibrant costumes pop with life.

The choreography, under the direction of Robert Alton, is energetic and engaging, seamlessly blending with the musical numbers. From the grand ensemble pieces to the intimate duets, the dance sequences are an integral part of the storytelling, conveying emotion and adding to the overall spectacle. The film's approach to recreating the Wild West Show is not just about historical accuracy but about capturing the *essence* of it – the showmanship, the danger, and the larger-than-life personalities that drew crowds from all over.

Beyond the Gunshots: Themes and Legacy

While *Annie Get Your Gun* is undoubtedly an entertaining musical comedy, it also explores several enduring themes that resonate with audiences even today. At its core, it's a story about self-discovery and empowerment. Annie Oakley, a woman from humble beginnings, rises to fame through sheer talent and determination, challenging societal expectations of her time. She proves that a woman can be just as capable, if not more so, than any man in a male-dominated world. Her unwavering confidence and refusal to compromise her true self make her a compelling and inspiring figure.

The film also touches on the complexities of relationships, particularly the push and pull between independence and partnership. Annie and Frank's relationship is a classic example of a battle of wills that ultimately leads to love. Their journey from rivals to lovers is filled with humor, misunderstandings, and genuine affection, making their eventual union all the more satisfying. The theme of finding love while staying true to oneself is a universal one that continues to strike a chord.

The legacy of *Annie Get Your Gun* is undeniable. It's a film that has introduced generations to the magic of Irving Berlin's music and the captivating story of Annie Oakley. It has inspired countless performers and continues to be a beloved staple in film libraries and classic movie marathons. The film's success paved the way for other big-budget musical adaptations and cemented its place as a cornerstone of American cinema. It's a testament to the power of a good story, fantastic music, and unforgettable performances.

Why You Should Watch (or Re-watch) *Annie Get Your Gun*

If you're looking for a film that will make you laugh, sing along, and feel good, then *Annie Get Your Gun* is an absolute must-watch. It's a joyous celebration of talent, spirit, and the enduring power of love. Whether you're drawn to the iconic songs, the dazzling performances, or the captivating story of a woman who defied expectations, this musical masterpiece has something for everyone. It's a film that proves that sometimes, the best way to capture someone's heart is with a sharp shot and an even sharper wit. So grab some popcorn, settle in, and get ready to be transported to the Wild West for a ride you won't soon forget. And who knows, you might just find yourself inspired to do what comes naturally!

Annie Get Your Gun: A Cinematic Icon of Talent, Resilience, and Disruption

Annie Get Your Gun is more than just a film—it is a landmark in American cinema, a vibrant and enduring portrayal of ambition, self-determination, and the fierce will to succeed. Released in 1950, this musical adaptation of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II's 1946 stage production captures the electrifying story of Annie Oakley, the legendary sharpshooter whose precision and charisma defied the expectations of an era when women's roles were rigidly defined. The film transformed a theatrical narrative into a cinematic masterpiece, blending sharp dialogue, soaring music, and powerful performances that continue to resonate with audiences today.

Story and Characters: A Reimagining of Truth and Myth

At the heart of Annie Get Your Gun lies the complex figure of Annie Oakley, brought to life with fiery intensity by stars like Judy Garland and later Roberta Flack in the 1970s made-for-TV adaptation, though Garland's portrayal remains iconic. The film reimagines her life not merely as a biography but as a bold commentary on gender, fame, and personal agency. Through Annie's journey, the story explores how talent can be both a gift and a weapon—used to gain respect in a male-dominated world, yet also a source of vulnerability. Supporting characters, such as Frank Butler, Annie's former lover and rival, and the larger-than-life figures of Buffalo Bill and the Wild West spectacle, amplify the film's dramatic tension and thematic depth. The narrative balances humor and pathos, delivering a dynamic portrait of ambition amid societal constraints.

Musical and Cinematic Artistry

The film's musical score, composed by Rodgers with lyrics by Hammerstein, remains one of its most celebrated elements. Songs like "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "Make Them Believe" have transcended the movie to become cultural touchstones, symbolizing conviction and empowerment. The integration of music into the storytelling does not merely entertain; it deepens character development and emotional resonance, turning performance into an act of identity. Cinematically, director George Sidney crafts vivid period detail and kinetic energy, especially in action sequences that bring sharpshooting and Wild West drama to life with authenticity and flair. The film's visual style—bright, expressive, and rhythmically precise—enhances its theatrical roots while making it accessible to a broad audience.

Cultural Impact and Enduring Legacy

Annie Get Your Gun's influence extends far beyond its initial release. It played a pivotal role in redefining women's representation in Hollywood musicals, positioning a female protagonist not as a passive character but as a dynamic force of her own destiny. The film's themes of self-belief, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence continue to inspire generations, making it a touchstone in discussions about gender and empowerment. Its music remains a staple in popular culture, frequently featured in films, commercials, and performances that seek to evoke strength and authenticity. The story's blend of personal struggle and public spectacle has also influenced later theatrical and cinematic works exploring complex female protagonists.

Applications and Relevance in the Modern Era

Today, Annie Get Your Gun retains its relevance as a narrative of individualism and courage. Its exploration of authenticity in a world of performance speaks to contemporary audiences navigating identity and visibility in digital spaces. Educators and scholars frequently cite the film when discussing media representation, gender roles,

and the evolution of the American musical. Beyond academia, the film continues to serve as a source of inspiration in business, leadership training, and cultural studies, offering a powerful example of how talent, when paired with confidence, can challenge norms and reshape perceptions. Its enduring appeal lies in its ability to balance entertainment with enduring social commentary.

Future Outlook and Legacy

As cinema evolves, *Annie Get Your Gun* endures not as a relic but as a living narrative, adaptable across new platforms and contexts. Digital remastering, streaming availability, and renewed interest in classic musicals ensure its accessibility to younger audiences. Moreover, the film's themes—empowerment, resilience, and the courage to claim one's voice—resonate deeply in an era increasingly centered on personal expression and authenticity. Future adaptations or reinterpretations may explore new perspectives, perhaps through diverse cultural lenses or expanded narratives that honor Annie's legacy while reflecting modern values. The film's legacy is secure not only as a cinematic artifact but as a timeless story of a woman who shot beyond the limits imposed by society.

Annie Get Your Gun: A Timeless Musical Extravaganza That Shot Its Way into Cinematic History

Few musicals have captivated audiences with their sheer exuberance, iconic songs, and enduring charm quite like "Annie Get Your Gun." Originally a Broadway sensation, this Irving Berlin masterpiece, brought to vibrant life on the silver screen in 1950, remains a beloved classic. More than just a lively musical, the film offers a fascinating glimpse into the mythology of the American West, the power of self-belief, and the enduring appeal of a strong, independent female protagonist. This detailed analysis will explore the film's production, its star power, its musical legacy, and its lasting impact on popular culture, making it a must-read for fans of classic Hollywood, musical theatre aficionados, and anyone interested in the golden age of American cinema.

The Unstoppable Force: The Story of Annie Oakley

At its heart, "Annie Get Your Gun" is a biographical musical loosely based on the life of Annie Oakley, the legendary sharpshooter who became a star in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The film, like its stage counterpart, dramatizes her rise to fame, her tempestuous romance with fellow marksman Frank Butler, and her unwavering determination in a male-dominated world. The narrative, penned by Herbert and Dorothy Fields, is a masterclass in witty dialogue, engaging plot points, and the seamless integration of Irving Berlin's unforgettable tunes. While historical accuracy is often a secondary concern in musicals, the film captures the spirit and essence of Annie's extraordinary life, transforming her into an enduring symbol of American grit and talent. The story resonates because it taps into a universal desire to overcome obstacles, prove oneself, and achieve greatness against all odds. This core message, coupled with the infectious energy of the musical numbers, makes "Annie Get Your Gun" a perennial favorite.

Betty Hutton: The Fiery Star Who Embodied Annie

The casting of Betty Hutton as Annie Oakley was a stroke of genius, even if it wasn't the original intention. Initially, Judy Garland was slated to play the role, but she famously withdrew due to illness and personal struggles. Enter Betty Hutton, a Warner Bros. contract player known for her boundless energy, powerful singing voice, and comedic timing. Hutton's portrayal of Annie is nothing short of electrifying. She injects the character with a raw, unpretentious vitality that perfectly matches Annie's spirited personality and her humble origins. Her rendition of

"Doin' What Comes Natur'lly" is a tour de force of vocal prowess and comedic flair, while her heartfelt delivery of "I Got the Sun in the Morning" showcases a more tender side. Hutton's performance is so iconic that it's hard to imagine anyone else bringing Annie to life with such conviction. Her chemistry with Howard Keel, who plays the dashing Frank Butler, is palpable, adding another layer of appeal to the film's romantic subplot.

Howard Keel: The Perfect Counterpoint to Annie's Spark

Howard Keel, with his deep baritone voice and commanding stage presence, provided the ideal foil for Betty Hutton's effervescence. As Frank Butler, he embodies the classic romantic hero, initially threatened by Annie's superior talent but ultimately captivated by her spirit and skill. Keel's performances of "The Girl That I Marry" and "They Say It's Wonderful" are delivered with sincerity and a charming vulnerability, making his eventual capitulation to Annie's charms all the more satisfying. The dynamic between Hutton and Keel is a crucial element of the film's success, highlighting the playful banter and underlying attraction that fuels their relationship. Their vocal harmonies are a delight, and their on-screen chemistry elevates the musical numbers and the dramatic moments alike. Keel's solid performance solidifies his place as a distinguished leading man of the MGM musical era.

Irving Berlin's Masterpiece: Songs That Became Standards

"Annie Get Your Gun" boasts one of the most celebrated scores in musical theatre history, thanks to the genius of Irving Berlin. The film features an incredible collection of songs that have transcended the movie itself to become enduring standards. From the rousing opening number, "There's No Business Like Show Business," a song that has become synonymous with the magic of performance, to the infectious "Doin' What Comes Natur'lly" and the romantic "They Say It's Wonderful," each tune is perfectly integrated into the narrative, advancing the plot and revealing character. "Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)" is a particularly memorable duet that encapsulates the competitive spirit and playful rivalry between Annie and Frank. The film also includes other gems like "I'm an Indian Too," "Moonshine Lullaby," and "Old Fashioned Wedding." The sheer quality and memorability of these songs are a testament to Berlin's unparalleled songwriting ability. These Irving Berlin songs are arguably the film's greatest asset, ensuring its continued popularity decades after its release.

A Spectacle of MGM Grandeur

As an MGM production, "Annie Get Your Gun" was a lavish affair, showcasing the studio's commitment to musical spectacle. Directed by George Sidney, the film is visually stunning, with vibrant Technicolor cinematography that captures the grandeur of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and the romantic landscapes of the American frontier. The costumes are elaborate, the sets are impressive, and the choreography, particularly in the big ensemble numbers, is dynamic and engaging. The film captures the spirit of its era, reflecting the optimism and escapism prevalent in post-war Hollywood. The large-scale production numbers, such as the rendition of "There's No Business Like Show Business" that opens the film, immediately set a tone of grand entertainment. The meticulous attention to detail in the set design and the vibrant color palette contribute to the film's timeless appeal, making it a visual feast for the eyes. The MGM musical tradition is on full display here, offering a polished and entertaining cinematic experience.

LSI Keywords and SEO Considerations

For those seeking to discover this cinematic gem, keywords such as "Annie Get Your Gun film," "Betty Hutton Annie Oakley," "Howard Keel musical," "Irving Berlin songs," "MGM musicals," "classic Hollywood musicals," "American West film," and "Annie Get Your Gun soundtrack" will be crucial for search engine visibility. The film's enduring popularity also makes terms like "best musical films," "golden age of Hollywood," and "popular movie musicals"

highly relevant. Discussions about the film's themes, such as "female empowerment in film" and "biographical musicals," can also attract a niche audience. The detailed analysis of the musical numbers, performances, and production values further enhances its SEO potential by catering to specific search queries from film enthusiasts and researchers.

Themes and Enduring Appeal

"Annie Get Your Gun" transcends its status as a mere musical; it's a celebration of individuality, perseverance, and the triumph of talent. Annie Oakley's character is a pioneering figure for her time, a woman who challenges societal expectations and carves out her own path with grit and determination. Her journey from humble beginnings to international stardom is an inspiring narrative that continues to resonate with audiences. The film also explores themes of love and partnership, demonstrating that true connection can blossom even amidst rivalry and competition. The musical's inherent optimism and its uplifting message of believing in oneself are timeless qualities that contribute to its lasting appeal. In an era often characterized by cynicism, the sheer joy and unwavering positivity of "Annie Get Your Gun" offer a welcome escape and a reminder of the power of dreams and hard work.

Conclusion: A Shot of Pure Entertainment

More than seventy years after its release, "Annie Get Your Gun" remains a vibrant and vital piece of cinematic history. Its iconic songs, captivating performances, and timeless themes have cemented its place as one of the greatest musicals ever made. Betty Hutton's star turn as Annie Oakley is a performance for the ages, complemented by Howard Keel's charming portrayal of Frank Butler. The film is a testament to the enduring power of Irving Berlin's songwriting and the grandeur of MGM's Golden Age productions. Whether you're a seasoned fan of classic cinema or a newcomer to the world of musicals, "Annie Get Your Gun" is a guaranteed dose of pure, unadulterated entertainment that will leave you humming its unforgettable tunes long after the credits roll. It's a film that truly earned its place in the pantheon of Hollywood classics, proving that some stories, and some songs, are simply meant to last a lifetime.

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Questions & Answers About annie get your gun film

No	Question	Answer
1	Who starred as the iconic Annie Oakley in the 1950 film adaptation of 'Annie Get Your Gun'?	Betty Hutton delivered a powerhouse performance as Annie Oakley in the 1950 film version.
2	What's the most famous song from the musical 'Annie Get Your Gun' that made its way into the film?	The undeniable earworm 'There's No Business Like Show Business' is the most iconic song featured prominently in the film.
3	Was 'Annie Get Your Gun' based on a true story?	Yes, the film and musical are inspired by the life of the legendary sharpshooter Annie Oakley, though some dramatic liberties were taken for entertainment.
4	What was the reception of the 1950 'Annie Get Your Gun' film?	The film was a major critical and commercial success, earning an Academy Award for Best Scoring of a Musical Picture and becoming a beloved classic.
5	Who played the role of Buffalo Bill Cody in the 1950 film 'Annie Get Your Gun'?	Louis Calhern portrayed the legendary showman Buffalo Bill Cody in the movie.
6	What makes the character of Annie Oakley so compelling in the film?	Annie Oakley's fierce independence, incredible talent, and journey of self-discovery against the backdrop of the Wild West and the burgeoning entertainment industry make her a captivating character.
7	Did any of the songs from the original stage musical get cut from the film?	Yes, several songs from the stage musical were omitted from the film, including 'I'm an Indian Too' and 'Old Fashioned Wedding'.
8	What historical context is important to understanding 'Annie Get Your Gun'?	The film is set during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a period of Wild West shows and the rise of American entertainment, showcasing the era's fascination with frontiersmen and sharpshooters.
9	Besides Betty Hutton, who else was considered or even cast as Annie Oakley for the film?	Judy Garland was originally slated to play Annie Oakley, but health issues led to Betty Hutton taking on the role, which she famously embodied.

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