

# PRIYANKA SHETTY

ACTOR | DIRECTOR | PLAYWRIGHT



# TOURING HISTORY



## 2023/24 PERFORMANCES

We had a busy 2023/24 season with *The Elephant in the Room!*

**ENACTE ARTS**  
(PALO ALTO, CA)  
APRIL 21ST-22ND, 2023

**THEATRE HORIZON**  
(NORRISTOWN, PA)  
MAY 17TH-19TH 2024

**PRATIDHWANI**  
(SEATTLE, WA)  
SEPTEMBER 23RD-29T, 2023

**KEEGAN THEATRE**  
(WASHINGTON DC)  
JUN 1ST-23RD 2024

**AZUKA THEATRE**  
**(SOLD OUT!)**  
(PHILADELPHIA, PA)  
NOVEMBER 1ST-19TH, 2023


**SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE**  
(CHICAGO, IL)  
OCT 11TH-12TH 2024

**LEACH THEATRE**  
(ROLLA, MI)  
FEBRUARY 10TH 2024

**RESER CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
(CORVALLIS,OR)  
OCT 18TH-20TH, 2024

**GOODWILL THEATRE**  
(NEW YORK)  
MARCH 23RD, 2024

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATER**  
**(SOLD OUT!)**  
(CLEVELAND, OH)  
NOVEMBER 14TH-17TH, 2024

A close-up, artistic portrait of a woman with dark skin and hair. She is looking slightly to the left. A large, vibrant yellow flower is positioned behind her ear, partially obscuring her hair. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of her skin and the petals of the flower.

# 2025/ 2026

## **INTERVIEWS BEGIN FOR THE WALL - THE THIRD AND FINAL PLAY IN A TRIPTYCH OF SOLOS**

Priyanka started the first round of interviews for her next play about immigration titled *THE WALL* last week in Norristown PA which led to some incredible sharing of personal experiences of joy and pain related to their immigration experiences.

## **#CHARLOTTESVILLE HEADS TO 2025 EDINBURGH FRINGE**

*#CHARLOTTESVILLE* is set to have its UK Premiere at the World's Largest Arts Festival - the 2025 Edinburgh Festival Fringe at an exciting venue from the Big 4 to be announced soon!

## **OFFICIAL WORLD PREMIERE: #CHARLOTTESVILLE**

*#CHARLOTTESVILLE* will receive its official World Premiere at the multiple Helen Hayes award-winning Keegan Theatre in Washington DC. The play is directed by Yury Urnov, co-Artistic Director at the Tony Award-winning Wilma Theatre and recipient of the 2024 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play for Woolly Mammoth's *My Mama and the Full-Scale Invasion*.



# 2024/ 2025

## **PRIYANKA RECEIVES AN NEA GRANT FOR 'THE WALL'**

Priyanka Shetty received a generous grant from the National Endowment of the Arts for the development of *The Wall*, the third piece in her Triptych of Solos.

## **STANDING OVATION AT THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL**

Priyanka was invited to perform her play *#CHARLOTTESVILLE* alongside legendary solo performer Roger Guenveur Smith's *Otto Frank* at DePaul. She received a standing ovation and much praise from Smith who recognized her as "the artist of this generation carrying forward the legacy of Anna Deavere Smith."

## **TEITR COMPLETES 2024 TOUR**

*The Elephant in the Room* completed a very successful tour that started November 2023 at the Azuka Theatre in Philadelphia and ended in November 2024 with a SOLD OUT run at the Cleveland Public Theatre. The tour included many exciting stops such as the Patricia Van Reser Center for Creative Arts in Oregon and the South Asia Institute in Chicago.



# 2023/ 2024

## **SOLD OUT: PHILLY PREMIERE OF TEITR IS A HUGE SUCCESS**

Azuka Theatre opened their 2023-24 season with the Philadelphia Premiere of *The Elephant in the Room* which drew audiences in large numbers resulting in a sold out run!

## **PREMIERE: IF ELEPHANTS COULD FLY LAUNCH EVENT**

Priyanka's Edinburgh Fringe Documentary had a social red carpet event and screening at Drexel University in Philadelphia. The event was attended by industry members, faculty and students at Drexel, and the filmmaker Andrea Costa.

## **OFFICIAL SELECTION: 2023 DC SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

Priyanka's short documentary *If Elephants Could Fly* about taking *The Elephant in the Room* to the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe had its first official screening at the 12th Annual DC South Asian Film Festival in Dec 2023! The film was screened at the AMC Theaters and was followed by a post screening conversation with Priyanka.

# 2022/ 2023

## **CELEBRATING FIVE STAR REVIEWS AND FIVE SEASON INCLUSIONS!**

*The Elephant in the Room* has been included in the 2023-24 season at not one, not two, but 5 theatres across the US starting with a hometown run at the Azuka theatre in Philadelphia. Priyanka's second solo show *#Charlottesville* had a successful workshop production in Washington DC which garnered positive responses from critics and audiences with 5-star reviews and back-to-back standing ovations. This play will return to Washington DC for a longer run in 2024-25.

## **NATIONWIDE LAUNCH - TRIPTYCH OF SOLOS**

Priyanka's triptych of solos comprising *THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM*, *#CHARLOTTESVILLE*, and *THE WALL* will see a nationwide rollout in 2023-25! This ambitious national launch will also include extensive community outreach across 8 national hubs and conversations around the important themes each of the three plays address.





# 2021/ 2022

## **A SUCCESSFUL 2022 EDINBURGH FRINGE & SCOTLAND TOUR!**

TEITR returned from a successful month-long run at the Olympics of all art events - The Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2022! After 28 back-to-back performances at Assembly, one of the Festival's "Big 4" venues, Priyanka embarked on her first Scotland tour. The play garnered rave reviews from audiences and critics and was *Voted Most Popular* by **The Scotsman** who featured the play in a half-page review in their print edition!

## **SOLD OUT NYC & OFF BROADWAY DEBUT AT 59E59 THEATERS**

Priyanka made her Off-Broadway Debut at NYC's Drama Desk Award-winning #1 Off-Broadway destination 59E59 Theaters' East to Edinburgh Festival in July 2022 prior to her Edinburgh Fringe run. The play had a sold out run and was attended by several industry professionals and theatre goers!



# 2019/ 2020

## **WINNER - 2020 & 2019 BROADWAY WORLD AWARDS**

TEITR wins the 2020 Broadway World Regional Awards (US) for Best Performer of the Decade and Best Play of the Decade! A second consecutive win for the World Premiere of the play. In 2019, the play was also awarded Best Lead Actor, Best Play and Best Director.

## **TEITR GOES TO THE KENNEDY CENTER**

Standing room only! Over 400 people turned up at The Kennedy Center to show their support. While some patrons stood all the way at the back of the theatre, others sat by the aisle and the staircase leading to the next level.

## **MORE KENNEDY CENTER NEWS**

Priyanka handpicked as one of the extraordinary playwrights for the prestigious 2021 Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive!



**"Shetty has a warm energy and comfortable rapport that makes the experience engaging and enjoyable. Amusing, relatable... incisive."**

- TV Jerry



# THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

A One-Woman Show by Priyanka Shetty

"One-Woman Wonder" Priyanka Shetty's **THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM** is a witty, dark comedy about just your typical Indian metalhead and software-engineer-turned-actor who must navigate life as an immigrant arriving in Trump's America. When Priyanka makes the bold move to defy her family by quitting her IT job and moving to the U.S. to pursue an acting career, things don't quite turn out how she imagined. The play navigates Priyanka's real-life journey as she transitions from her deeply embedded roots in India to finding context and common ground in America. Gear up for a funny, tumultuous ride through immiscible cultures, unforgettable love, irreparable loss, and the desperation of not belonging anywhere.

*The Elephant in the Room* has been presented at several Performing Arts Centers, Regional Theatres and Universities across the US, including The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington DC, CATF, and Yale. Its international performances include a month-long run at the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe which was followed by a Scotland tour and a Canadian tour in 2022/2023. Priyanka is thrilled to be included in the 2023/24 season at 5 theatres in the US including Azuka Theatre in Philadelphia, Theatre Horizon in Norristown PA, The Keegan Theatre in Washington DC, Leach Theatre in Missouri and the Reser Center for Performing Arts in Oregon. These performances officially kickoff the rollout of her Triptych of Solos.

# PLAYWRIGHT IN RESIDENCE AND A NEW COMMISSION!

TEITR's DC Premiere came with exciting announcements.



**THE KEEGAN THEATRE**  
in good company

Featuring a film viewing of Priyanka's journey through the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, announcements about future projects in the works, and an audience Q&A

PLAYWRIGHT IN RESIDENCE  
**WELCOME**  
RECEPTION

with  
**Priyanka Shetty**  
playwright of  
**THE ELEPHANT  
IN THE ROOM**

MONDAY  
**JUNE  
10**

[WWW.KEEGANTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.KEEGANTHEATRE.COM)

*The Elephant in the Room* had its DC Premiere at the Keegan Theatre as part of their 2023-24 season. The 3-week run also came with the announcement that Priyanka would be their Playwright-in-Residence and that the Keegan Theatre would offer her a commission to write the final play in her Triptych of Solos. The theatre hosted a welcome reception for Priyanka which included a screening of her Edinburgh Fringe documentary *If Elephants could Fly* and a Q&A with the audience about the brand new commission and future projects in the works.

**"Charming and arresting... a bold immigrant story as unique as the immigrant experience itself."**

- Broad Street Review



## PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

SOLD OUT Run at Azuka Theatre!

***The Elephant in the Room*** opened the 2023-24 season at Azuka Theatre and made its Philadelphia Premiere with a sold out run in November. The show received glowing critical reviews and audience feedback and also marked Priyanka's performance debut in her new home base.

Due to popular demand, Azuka Theatre extended the run through Nov 19th.

The creative team included talented local artists including Suli Holum (Director), Dirk Durossette (Scenic Design), Harbour Edney (Lighting Design), Nat Merrill (Sound Design), Heather Mease (Compositions), Leigh Paradise (Costume Design), and Lavina Jadhvani (Dramaturgy).

***"Originally scheduled to play until Nov. 12, The Elephant in the Room starring Priyanka Shetty extended after a string of sold-out shows."***

- Metro Philadelphia





# IF ELEPHANTS COULD FLY!

Special Red Carpet Event and Screening at Drexel University

Priyanka's Edinburgh Fringe documentary *IF ELEPHANTS COULD FLY* was officially released on May 7th 2023 at Drexel University's URBN Annex Center. The screening was followed by a brief Q&A with Priyanka and filmmaker Andrea Costa.



This event was generously hosted and sponsored by the Entertainment & Arts Management program at Drexel University's Westphal College of Media, Art and Design and was attended by industry members, the faculty and students at Drexel university. Filmmaker Andrea Costa made his first trip to Philly all the way from Scotland!

Can elephants really fly? In this short documentary, we follow actor Priyanka Shetty as she takes her one-woman show, *The Elephant in the Room*, to the world's largest arts festival - the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. As a South Asian immigrant navigating a new country, Priyanka faces the daunting task of establishing herself as an 'Artist of Extraordinary Ability'. Braving unpredictable weather, homesickness, and a packed schedule, she completes a grueling month-long run in Edinburgh, with the stakes getting higher with each passing day. Will she be able to overcome the odds and achieve her dream?





# EDINBURGH FRINGE 2022!

Assembly Festival's 40th Anniversary

*The Elephant in the Room* just returned from the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland and was featured among several curated acts that performed at the "Big 4" venues as part of the Assembly Festival.

2022 marked the 40th anniversary of the Assembly Festival. In addition to this, Assembly also celebrated its history as the longest-running multi-space venue at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The play garnered rave reviews from audiences and critics including 5 star reviews and was Voted Most Popular by The Scotsman which featured the play with a half-page review in their print edition!

The play ran for the full length of the festival with a total of 28 performances and was followed by a Scotland tour which included award-winning venues such as the Beacon Arts Center and Macrobert Arts.

Check out the [featured review](#) from **The Scotsman!**





# THE SCOTSMAN

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1817 SCOTSMAN.COM REGISTER TODAY FOR NEWS ALERTS



## 20-page guide to the best of the Edinburgh festivals inside

EIF, Fringe and Book Festival reviews plus your hour by hour guide to what's on **the festival**



**Football:** Still hope in Hearts despite Zurich defeat



↑ Priyanka Shetty finds herself stuck between two identities

## Facing the elephant in the dressing room

### THEATRE

**The Elephant in the Room**  
Assembly Rooms (Venue 20), until 27 August  
★★★★

One of the prevalent themes on the Fringe this year is work made by artists who have crossed geographical borders and met new people. Priyanka Shetty's new solo show, *The Elephant in the Room*, is a performance of her solo work made by artists who have crossed geographical borders and met new people. Priyanka Shetty's new solo show, *The Elephant in the Room*, is a performance of her solo work made by artists who have crossed geographical borders and met new people.

show which her parents are planning to attend. She realises she is stuck between two identities, the one her Indian family expects from her and the one she is forging for herself. At this point, an anonymous package arrives, which turns out to be a box of tarot cards themed around Ganesha, the Hindu elephant god.

The cards provide a scaffold for the story's building blocks. Shetty's memories of

misfit or a stereotype". The more we learn, the more we are drawn in to Shetty's story: the male colleague who encouraged her to follow her calling; the showdown with her mother when she broke the news; her rebellious short hair and love of heavy metal. She's not as Indian as she was, but she's not white enough either.

Shetty deals in big emotions and primary colours: super excited, super disappointed

### THEATRE

**Charlotte Johnson: My Dad And Other Lies**  
Pleasance Dome (Venue 23), until 29 August  
★★★★

"Nobody wants to watch a play about my Dad saving the NHS!" gushes Charlotte, self-described macramé expert, pop star, jewellery maker, podcaster, everything-she-wants-to-be doer but primarily "Daddy's Girl" daughter of Boris Johnson (injunction alert!). Or this character, played with a brilliantly bratty attitude, could also be the comic creation of Charlotte Johnson née Evans.

A delicious multi-platform parody of privilege, it's an upbeat hour of audience participation in which Charlotte laments her lot and encourages us to be "kinder" and "more respectful" to "nepo(tism) babies" – children of celebrities – many of whom "built the Fringe" and whose offspring are performing sold-out shows this year. So, how's that fair, yah?

"We're here, don't judge us," she says in a show that lets the audience "shine" by forcing them to do the majority of the work, while sending spiky rebuffs to anyone who isn't entirely responsible, in true free market style, for their own success. The dynamic might be depressingly familiar, but the delivery by our "actually just very talented"

host is pure, predictable fun. We're her sycophantic interviewers, flailing backing dancers, and uncredited stage hands, desperately trying to do the Daddy's Girls musical opening number that, try as we might, we just can't get right.

SALLY STOTT

### THEATRE

**Manbo**  
Gilded Balloon Terviot (Venue 14), until 29 August  
★★★★

"Grab my balls!" shouts Manbo, handing out coloured (plastic) balls as we are blasted, with the force of a hand-held wind machine, into his high-octane world of comic action adventure. Part 1980s action hero

With an ever-revolving wheel of movie references, from Rambo to Apocalypse Now, Rocky to James Bond, it's a physically challenging, extremely silly, hour of pure, embodied entertainment. "There will be audience participation," says Sam Dugmore, as Manbo, at the start – the kind where we're required to regularly get shot at, blown up and, at one point, create the carnage of a children's ball pool.

The story is gloriously far-fetched, set against the backdrop of Afghanistan and the military career of Manbo, who wants to quit, but just can't resist the opportunity to carry out a Bonnie Tyler-inspired training montage. He's the kind of character who could have essentially the same show on every year at the Fringe and it would still be a total treat to keep going back to them. An all-American romantic paired with every character played by Sylvester Stallone beginning with the letter "R", Dugmore uses mime with the power of a land mine, but also expertly balances shifts in tone and pace to create the excitement but also emotion of the great action films that he parodies, to celebrate "the best goddamn comic soldier in human history".

SALLY STOTT

### THEATRE

**Almost Adult**  
Gilded Balloon Patter Hoose (Venue 24), until 28 August  
★★★

Straight out of college. Hope (the name is portentous) moves to London from Macclesfield, head full of the bright lights. Soon, she has a monosyllabic flatmate, a job in a dinosaur-themed restaurant and Tinder on her phone: her life's about to begin and she's nailing this thing called adulthood. Except it's not quite like that. We realise before she does that her Tinder date is just using her, and the sleazy manager at Dinoworld is a menace to the female staff.

Charlotte Anne-Tilley's self-penned one-woman play – her Fringe debut, at 23 – is a confident, poised piece of writing. She does the char-

In what is a very sporting debut, Anne-Tilley skilfully balances moments of comedy with a darker picture of the vulnerability of young women making their way in the world, and the fact that there are still not enough safeguards to protect them.

SUSAN MANSFIELD

### THEATRE

**Self Service**  
theSpace @ Surgeons Hall (Venue 53), until 27 August  
★★★★

Anne Rabbitt last appeared on the Fringe in 1986 with her double-act partner Doon Mackichan. In the 1980s, Rabbitt & Doon appeared alongside Jo Brand, Jenny Eclair, Paul Merton and others. While Mackichan went on to success in radio, TV and film, Rabbitt's career was dogged by bad luck: an agent declared bankrupt, a theatre which burned down just before her West End debut opposite Griff Rhys Jones. Having not been on stage for 15 years, Rabbitt is now back with a clever, quirky one-woman show in which she demonstrates she has lost none of the talent and courage which should, by rights, have taken her further up the showbiz ladder.

At the age of "not quite 60", she books herself in for a service. The 1962 Classic Rabbitt model has been reliable and family-friendly, despite the occasional breakdown. Now, there's a tendon issue and the cooling system is shot. With reference to the user's manual, a mechanic/shrink (also played by Rabbitt) diagnoses problems and proposes solutions.

Self Service is a hard show to categorise, a mixture of autobiography, comedy and self-help. Rabbitt is disarmingly honest about the demands of being creative while raising kids, her frustration with her role-play job in corporate development and the feeling she has lost touch with who she is. She plays multiple parts, sings in a variety of styles and plays the accordion.

There is so much interesting material here that she could afford to take it more slowly: allowing the ideas

## 4 STARS FROM THE SCOTSMAN, A FEATURED

## REVIEW AND VOTED MOST POPULAR!

soda refills" and the much trickier reality of arriving there to find she was "either a

with a more thoughtful one tucked inside it.

or fending off a particularly enthusiastic audience member with a foam stick.

speak out, and she discovers, abruptly, that the adult world is murkier than she thought.

and free of self-pity that we wish it went on longer.

SUSAN MANSFIELD



## NYC & OFF-BROADWAY DEBUT!

Drama Desk Award Winning #1 Off-Broadway Destination 59E59

***"Shetty is a dynamic performer, vividly evoking other characters, major and minor, in her narrative, and using space and physicality for maximum immersive effect. Humor pervades the show, and Shetty deftly interweaves Elephant's comedic strain with its moments of loss, struggle, questioning, and resistance."***

-John R. Ziegler and Leah Richards, **Thinking Theater NYC**

[\(Read full article here\)](#)

Priyanka made her Off-Broadway debut with a **sold-out run** at the coveted 59E59 Theaters' "East to Edinburgh" Festival in New York City in July 2022. These performances were part of a special preview of the show before its month-long run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2022. The show was attended by industry professionals and theatre goers in NYC and received glowing reviews and feedback from the audience.

Among the attendees was John Eisner who served as the Artistic Director of The Lark for 27 years who said "As I watched the show, I thought of how beautifully the play is in conversation with other plays about the struggle to hold onto one's values and purpose in a world that is constantly trying to reduce us to insiders and outsiders, mainstream and marginalized."

Priyanka's successful NYC run set a strong precedent for an even stronger reception in Edinburgh and her Scotland tour!

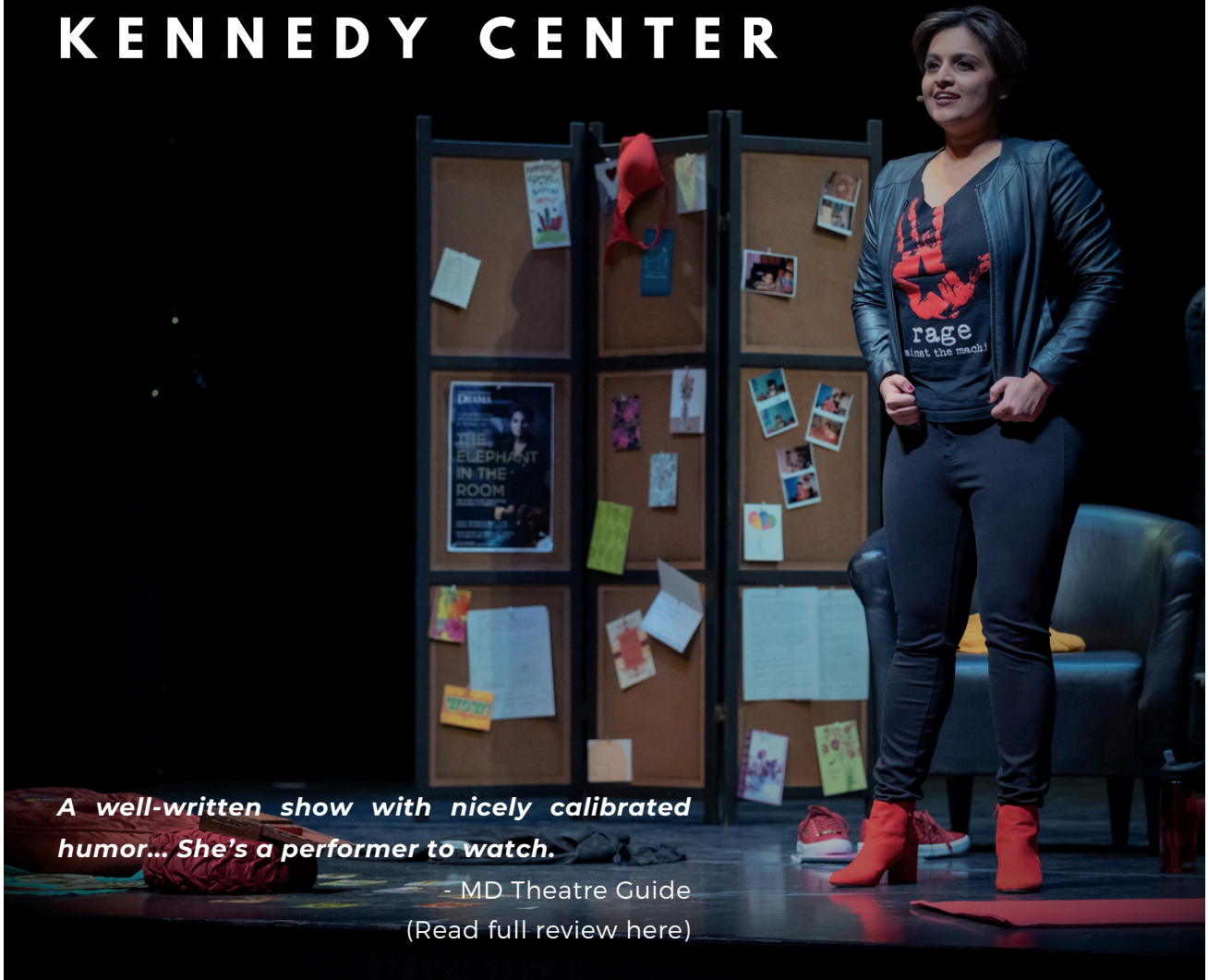


***"Hilarious, intimate, and honest, THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM explores the challenges of diversity. Priyanka's experience touches on things specific and universal ...whatever Priyanka does next, I plan to go see."***

- Rebecca Russavage, **Stagebuddy**

[\(Read full article here\)](#)

# TEITR AT THE KENNEDY CENTER



## STANDING ROOM ONLY

The Millennium Stage

TEITR had its critically acclaimed DC-premiere at The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. Over 400 people showed up to watch the play and there was standing room only! While some patrons stood all the way at the back, others sat by the aisle and the staircase leading to the next level.



They laughed, cried, and took back some Elephant merchandise to remember the show. The entire event was also live-streamed and a bunch of people from India tuned in!





# MORE KENNEDY CENTER NEWS

## 2021 Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive

***“We’re thrilled to include Priyanka Shetty in the 2021 Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive. Priyanka’s extraordinary promise as a playwright and her beautiful theatrical work assured her a place in this year’s Intensive. We can’t wait to watch her grow.”***

-Program Director, Gary Garrison

Priyanka has been selected as part of a cohort of burgeoning dramatists handpicked to join the prestigious Kennedy Center’s mentorship program for extraordinary playwrights this summer, where she will be completing the third play in her triptych of solos titled THE WALL. Not too long ago, The first solo play in this series, THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, had its critically acclaimed DC-premiere at The Kennedy Center in November 2019.

The Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive is led by Gary Garrison, an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, and educator who has served as Executive Director of Creative Affairs for the Dramatists Guild of America and the Dramatists Guild Institute of Field Learning and Dramatic Writing in New York. This year Jacqueline Lawton and TJ Young have been added to the leadership roster. The 2021 intensive is designed to reach out and offer mentorship to playwrights throughout the country who may be from different backgrounds but according to Gary “what’s common to all of them is, in a word, talent.”



The program consists of rigorous writing workshops and discussions of the art, craft, and business of playwriting. Recent teaching artists include Marsha Norman, Caridad Svich, Chisa Hutchinson, Calleen Sinnette Jennings, and Jacqueline Goldfinger.

Speaking of Priyanka's inclusion in the cohort, Gary says, “We’re thrilled to include Priyanka Shetty in the 2021 Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive. Priyanka’s extraordinary promise as a playwright and her beautiful theatrical work assured her a place in this year’s Intensive. We can’t wait to watch her grow.”



# #CHARLOTTESVILLE

A One-Woman Show by Priyanka Shetty

**#CHARLOTTESVILLE** is a solo play about the white supremacist "Unite the Right" rally and the events that took place on August 11th & 12th, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia. It is constructed verbatim from interviews with close to a hundred local residents impacted by the events and its aftermath. The play highlights the real-life experiences of the interviewees as they dealt with the crisis and continue to find ways to move forward as individuals and as a community. The play also explores deep-seated racial inequities that have existed historically in Charlottesville and how it escalated to one of the most terrible manifestations of racial violence in America.

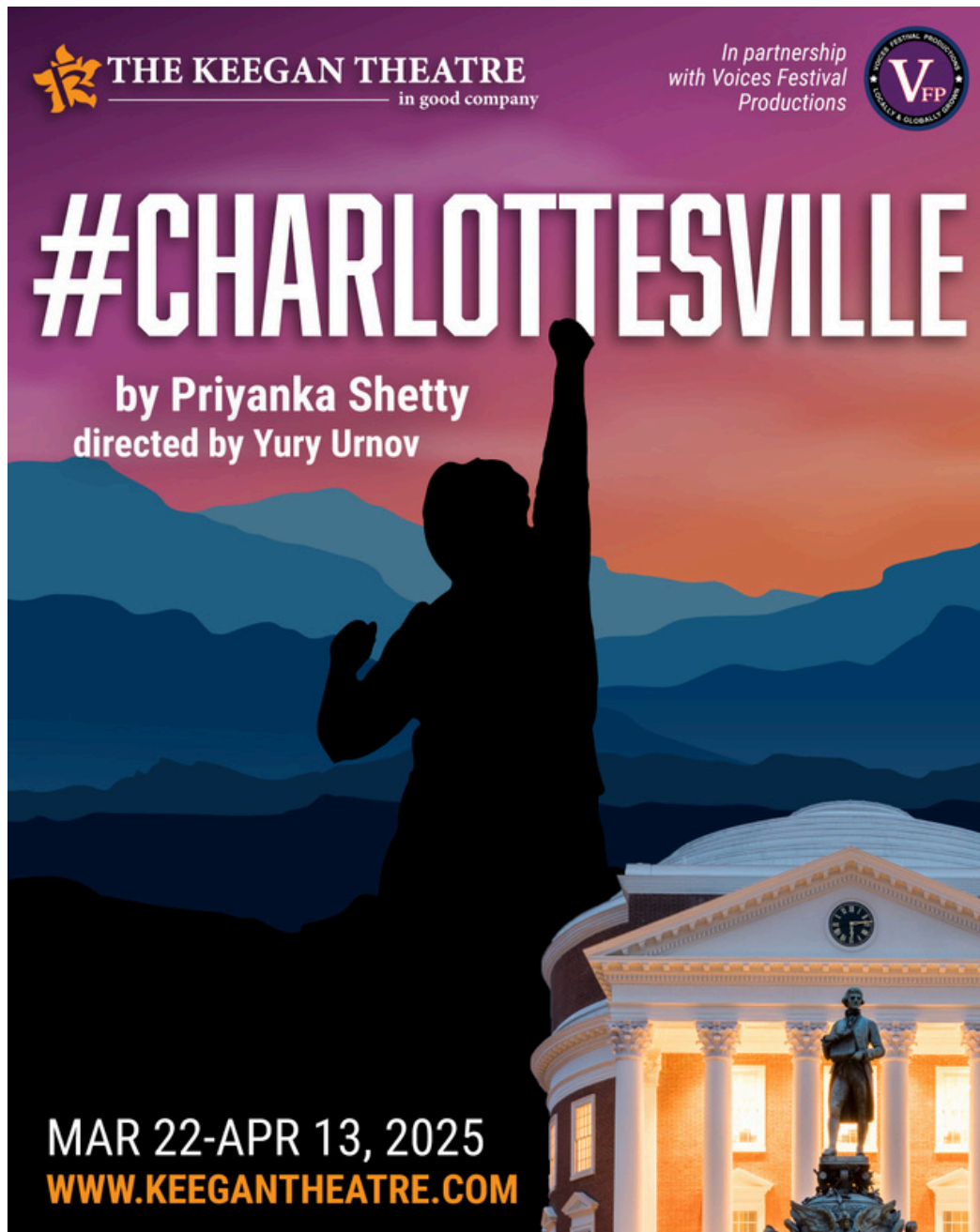
***"Riveting, change-making theatre at its very best. A masterclass in acting... Should be seen and discussed by everyone in America."***

- Erin Kahn, NYC Theatre Critic  
([Click here for the full review](#))

#CHARLOTTESVILLE was first presented as an ensemble play in 2019 at Live Arts and the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center in Charlottesville, VA. It was presented virtually by the Drama Desk award-winning 59E59 Theaters in New York City followed by a workshop production at Theater J in Washington DC

# WORLD PREMIERE!

#CHARLOTTESVILLE will receive its official World Premiere at the award-winning Keegan Theatre in Washington DC.



Priyanka's second play in her Triptych of Solos **#CHARLOTTESVILLE** is set to receive its official world premiere at multiple Helen Hayes Award-winning Keegan Theatre in Washington DC. The play will be directed by Yury Urnov, Artistic Director at the Tony award-winning Wilma Theatre and the recipient of the 2024 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Direction of A Play for Woolly Mammoth's *My Mama and the Full-Scale Invasion*. The play was listed in the Smithsonian Associates as one of **Theatre Washington's' Critic's Picks in the 24/25 DC Theatre Season**. This is Priyanka's second consecutive inclusion in Keegan Theatre's season after last year's successful run of *The Elephant in the Room*. Priyanka is currently Keegan's Playwright-in-Residence and has also received a commission from Keegan Theatre for the development of *THE WALL*, the third and final play in her Triptych of Solos.

**#CHARLOTTESVILLE runs March 22nd to April 13th at the Keegan Theatre in Washington, DC. For more information visit [keegantheatre.com](http://keegantheatre.com).**



## THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL

Priyanka performed #CHARLOTTESVILLE alongside Roger Guenvere Smith's Otto Frank at a special Performance Symposium at DePaul.

***"Priyanka Shetty is a brilliant performer and a comrade in our shared mission of creating meaningful, socially impactful art. She is the artist of this generation continuing the legacy of trailblazers of docu-theatre such as Anna Deavere Smith and Emily Mann."***

-Roger Guenvere Smith

Priyanka's solo play #CHARLOTTESVILLE, was featured along with legendary solo performer Roger Guenvere Smith's Otto Frank at a special Performance Symposium at DePaul University. To deepen audience understanding of both plays, this 3-day symposium also included a talk with Professor Pamela S. Nadell to explore the deep roots of the racist ideology that led to the explosion of antisemitism at the heart of both stories. #Charlottesville received a standing ovation and the post-show discussion was moderated by The Theatre School's David Chack, a professor of Jewish and Holocaust theatre and Identity Theatre at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

The event also included class visits where Roger Guenvere Smith expressed his admiration for Priyanka's talent and referred to her as a peer in their shared mission of creating socially relevant art. He also recognized her as an artist of this generation carrying forward the legacy of Anna Deavere Smith. Professor David Chack wrote "#CHARLOTTESVILLE is more than theatre or performance. In Judaism we say that the world stands on Deep Learning (Torah), on Service that is akin to active prayer (Avodah) and on acts of Lovingkindness (C'milut Chesed). Your piece was all three." Adding that the piece helped in understanding how racisms manifest, and the narratives can be challenged in the world we live in.





**"STUNNING,  
DYNAMIC,  
POIGNANT"  
- DC THEATER ARTS**

## 5 STAR REVIEW AND STANDING-O!

#CHARLOTTESVILLE gets incredible response in Washington DC

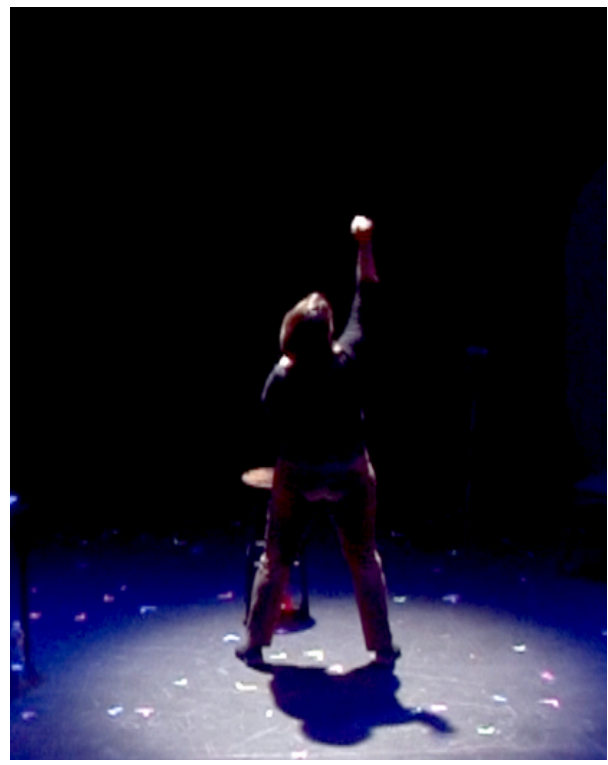
***"Priyanka Shetty doesn't flinch in her dynamic production of #Charlottesville. In 75 minutes, she muscles through the buildup, clash, and fallout of a day most Americans would rather forget...Her research is comprehensive. Her acting is poignant. Her stamina is stunning."***

-Daarel Burnette II, **DC Theater Arts**  
([Read full article here](#)).

Priyanka's solo play #CHARLOTTESVILLE, had a workshop production in Washington DC's Theater J as part of Capital Fringe with Voices Festival Productions. DC audiences showed up in large numbers and showered the play with their love with back to back standing ovations. The play also received massive critical acclaim with a 5 star review and was also named a DCTA Best of Fringe production by DC Theater Arts.

***"Shetty fluidly transitions from character to character with mesmerizing skill and aplomb but, indeed, the amount of characters performer Shetty had to portray must be a physical and emotional endurance test... this very ambitious production should prove to be a durable mainstay of the theatrical canon."***

-David Friscic, **Broadway World**  
([Read full article here](#)).



#CHARLOTTESVILLE will return to DC for a longer run in the 2024-25 season following which it will continue to tour across the country as part of the nationwide rollout of Priyanka's Triptych of Solos.

# EAST TO EDINBURGH GOES VIRTUAL



## NEW YORK TIMES FEATURE

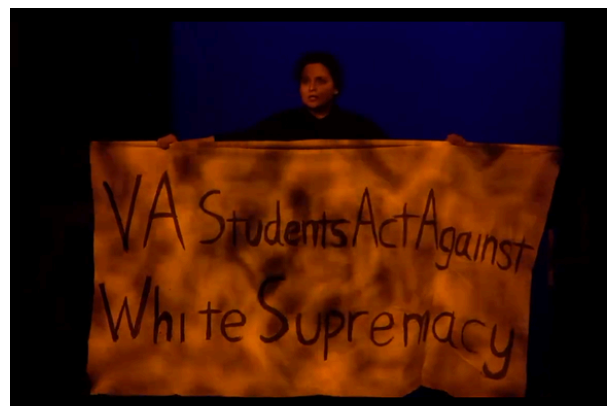
#CHARLOTTESVILLE chosen for 59E59 Theaters' virtual festival

***"Among the titles that caught my eye is Priyanka Shetty's docu-theater solo #Charlottesville, about the events that roiled the Virginia city in August 2017. Borrowing from Anna Deavere Smith, Shetty built her text from interviews."***

-Elisabeth Vincentelli, ***The New York Times***  
([Read full article here](#)).

Priyanka's solo play #CHARLOTTESVILLE, was chosen as one of nine new works for the coveted 59E59 Theaters' "East to Edinburgh Goes Virtual" Festival in July 2021. This is the second of three plays in her Triptych of solos that reveals the harrowing and heart-wrenching experiences of the residents of Charlottesville, Virginia who were present as counter-protestors at the white-supremacist "Unite the Right" rally on August 11th and 12th, 2017. Many survived and were seriously injured in the violent car attack that led to the tragic death of 32-year-old Heather Heyer.

Speaking about why this piece was chosen from a significant pool of submissions, Associate Curator at 59E59 Theaters' Jessica Hart says, ***"Priyanka's profound text is moving and thought-provoking. Her powerhouse performance made this an easy choice. This solo show held me captivated from the first silhouetted moment to its poignant, final breath."***



#CHARLOTTESVILLE is a solo play about the white supremacist "Unite the Right" rally and the events that took place between August 11-12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia. It is constructed verbatim from interviews with local residents impacted by the events and its aftermath and highlights their real-life experiences as they dealt with the crisis and continue to find ways to move forward as individuals and as a community. The play explores deep-seated racial inequities that have existed historically in Charlottesville and how it escalated to one of the most terrible manifestations of racial violence during the 'Summer of Hate.'

# NEA GRANT AWARDED TO THE WALL

Priyanka received a generous grant from National Endowment of the Arts for the development of THE WALL, the third and final play in her Triptych of Solos.



We want to send an extra special  
THANK YOU to the  
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for supporting us as we develop  
Priyanka Shetty's new piece  
*The Wall*

COME SEE her work:  
*The Elephant in the Room*  
May 17-19

**THEATRE HORIZON**

Priyanka's third play in her Triptych of Solos **THE WALL** was awarded a generous grant by the National Endowment of the Arts. This grant would enable her to develop her latest play with Theatre Horizon in Norristown, PA by engaging with immigrant communities in Norristown. Priyanka's solo performance project The Wall will explore the international immigrant experience in the wake of significant world events that carry social, political, and humanitarian implications. The development process will include interviews with Norristown's immigrant community, virtual interviews with immigrants in India and the United Kingdom, and public readings and performances of the work in progress. Theatre Horizon has also supported Priyanka's work by featuring her solo show The Elephant in the Room in their 2023/24 season.

***THE WALL will have public readings of excerpts from the play in Norristown, PA at Theatre Horizon in May 2025. For more information visit [theatrehorizon.org](http://theatrehorizon.org).***



# WORLD PREMIERE OF TRIPTYCH

Nationwide Launch in 2025/26

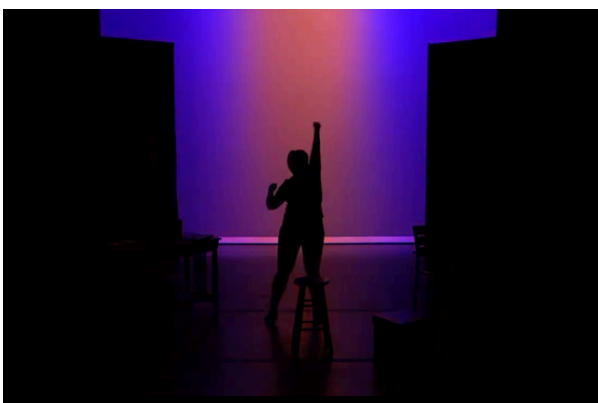
Priyanka's triptych of plays will be available for production as a coordinated nationwide premiere across multiple cities in 2025/26.

Priyanka brings a unique and global perspective as a South Asian immigrant and unpacks the quintessential American conflict of socio-economic inequality and racial violence in this triptych of solos. She says "I realized my own cultural background and identity gave me a unique lens through which I could unpack these issues and bring awareness to them. Each of these plays has a very important message and there's an urgency associated with sharing it, given our current political climate."



Each play in the triptych of solos tackles the issues of racial discrimination and violence from different perspectives:

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM approaches it from the viewpoint of a South Asian woman and her transition from deeply embedded roots in India to finding context and common ground in America; the second play #CHARLOTTESVILLE explores it from the perspective of a city that was at the center of one of the most terrible manifestations of racial violence in America; lastly, THE WALL ties it up by highlighting the immigrant experience in America.







# PRIYANKA SHETTY



## BIO

Priyanka Shetty, an award-winning actor, director, and playwright based in Philadelphia, PA. As a creator of original works, Priyanka is focused on making art that is a reflection of our times. With humor, insight, and raw energy, her plays pose critical questions about contemporary issues, engender dialogue, and call for solidarity and collective action. Her critically acclaimed one-woman show *THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM* has been performed at numerous venues across the country including The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and was recently staged at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe as part of the Assembly Festival which was followed by a Scotland Tour. Priyanka made her Off-Broadway debut with a sold-out run at the Drama Desk award-winning 59E59 Theaters' "East to Edinburgh" Festival in 2022. She was also handpicked for the prestigious Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive in 2021, and was the semi-finalist for the 2022 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. Priyanka earned a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Virginia and has served on the faculty of the University of Virginia's Department of Drama. [www.priyankashetty.com](http://www.priyankashetty.com)

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



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