

ROUTES

A Weekly Guide to African-American Culture

Dec. 23-, 1991-Jan 5, 1992 • (212) 627-5241 • Vol. I, No. 30 • \$1.00

**LISTINGS INSIDE: ART • CABARETS • CONCERTS • THEATER
RESTAURANTS • FREE-FOR-ALL**

*Seasons Greetings
&
A Happy New Year*



Perri Gaffney

Chris Albertson



Michael Sullivan



Estelle Whiting



Ronald Bunn



Nancy Gray-Lee

The *Routes*' team would like to express its gratitude for your support over the past seven months. We're having fun and learning a lot and we're hoping you are too. We look forward to discovering new routes with you in 1992.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

KWANZAA, AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE?

Is Kwanzaa really becoming an integral part of African-American culture? We at *Routes* have been discussing this question in light of our differing points of view. True, extensive media coverage and the proliferation of Kwanzaa celebrations in cities around the country this year, give some credibility to the notion of increasing acceptance of Kwanzaa, 25 years old this year. But, how is the acceptance of Kwanzaa being measured? By the number of people attending events? Or by the extent to which it is practiced in the home? Here, Kwanzaa can be passed on through the family and, ultimately, become a tradition.



Surely this is what Dr. Maulana Karenga, chairman of black studies at the University of California at Long Beach had in mind when he created Kwanzaa in 1966. The intention was that it would be a cultural celebration couched in African customs and traditions based on seven principles that serve as a guide for living. As he has outlined, each day from December 26th to January 1st, a red (*Blood*), black (*people*) or green (*land*) candle is lit, by the youngest member present, then a family member discusses one of the principles. Bearing Kiswahili names, the principals are the following: *Umoja* (unity), *Kujichagulia* (self-determination), *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics), *Nia* (purpose), *Kuumba* (creativity), and *Imani* (faith). In keeping with its Kiswahili meaning "first fruits of the harvest," Kwanzaa ends with a banquet.

An empirical study that could give us some information about the popularity of Kwanzaa and its celebrants was informally conducted by some *Routes* staffers at large social gatherings and among friends, relatives and associates. We simply asked the question "Do you celebrate Kwanzaa?" We found no Kwanzaa practitioners nor did those we questioned know anyone who celebrated it either. Similar findings were made last Saturday in Harlem at the Studio Museum where I observed a

(Continued on Page 5)

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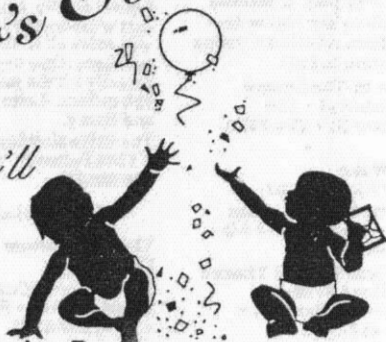
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Kwanzaa art workshop attended by mothers and their small children. They had come to Studio to learn special printing and painting techniques which could be applied to making Kwanzaa symbols. However, most of the children were making Christmas symbols. And in discussions with some of the mothers it was revealed that Kwanzaa was not a major part of their families' holiday practice.

An assistant commissioner of education, for example, said that she celebrated Kwanzaa *occasionally* "we talk about it, but we usually go out to Kwanzaa celebrations, and we have been doing this ever since my daughter [now 16 years of age] was small." When asked whether or not Kwanzaa is an integral part of our culture, she replied: "Absolutely!"

An investment banker said that she too "discusses Kwanzaa at home, has a lot of books on it, but doesn't celebrate it," giving as a reason the traditional celebration of Christmas. When she was asked whether or not Kwanzaa is an integral part of our culture, she replied: "It probably should be, but it's not, and it won't be until children are educated more about it in schools and at home. "Besides," she continued, "Christmas, because of its commercialization, is still the overwhelming experience around this time of year. Unless this changes, I don't think Kwanzaa can become an integral part of our culture."

Does this mean that the life of Kwanzaa depends on the demise of Christmas? Does the celebration of Christmas preclude the celebration of Kwanzaa? If one closely examines the intent of Christmas and that of Kwanzaa one will see that their goals are not in conflict with each other. One is historically religious, the other is a more recent construct of African cultural features, and, therefore, more of a social phenomenon. But let's move on to another mother, an attorney, whose discussion raises another question.

"No, I don't celebrate Kwanzaa—yet," she says adding "But, it seems as though it is an important part of our culture. Actually, you can celebrate Kwanzaa *and* Christmas, or choose the one that more accurately reflects who you think you are or would like to be."

Does celebrating one or the other of these holidays determine who you are?

The last mother I talked with was a full-time-mom who plans to celebrate Kwanzaa for the first time this year. Though most of her friends do not celebrate Kwanzaa, a considerable number are beginning to. "Having children has caused many parents to seriously consider what to celebrate, and basically, this has been our inspiration to include Kwanzaa in our holiday celebrations," she says. *Are children the reason for celebrating Kwanzaa? What about people who have no children? Should they celebrate it? What about you? Do you celebrate Kwanzaa in your home? If not, why not? Do you think that Kwanzaa is becoming an integral part of our culture? Write and let us know what you think.*

—Estelle Whiting
Associate Editor

CLUBS AND CABARETS

• **Lou Gassi Quintet**
Dec 23

• **Hilton Ruiz**
Dec 27 & 28

Birdland • 2745 B'way
/105th St • 749-2228

• **Monty Alexander Trio**
with James Moody &
Freddy Cole
Dec 24-29

• **The Manhattan Transfer**
Dec 31-Jan 5

The Blue Note • 131 W.
3rd St • 475-8592

• **Kirk Lightsey • Steve
Nelson • Santi Debriano**
Dec 23-28

• **Kenny Barron • Paul
West • Ben Riley**
Dec 31

Bradley's • 70 University
Pl/11th St • 228-6440

• **Bobby Short**
Through Dec 31

Cafe Carlyle • Madison
Ave/76th St • 744-1600

• **Eddie Burks & Delta
Blue**
Dec 22-26

• **Big Time Sarah & the
BTS Express**
Dec 27-31

Chicago B.L.U.E.S. • 73
8th Ave/13 St • 255-7373

• **Roots Talibes**
Dec 24

• **The Mighty Sparrow**
& from Senegal
*Mor Thiam & His
Drums of Fire Band*
Dec 31

Club Harambee •
African/International
Night Club • 127 W. 43rd
St • 819-1133

• **Tommy Flanagan Trio**
Dec 25-31

• **Jimmy Heath Quartet**
Jan 1-5

Condon's
117 E. 15th St • 254-0960

Betty Carter
Dec 26-31

Fat Tuesdays • 190 Third
Ave/17th St • 533-7902

• **Lee Musiker, piano
Jay Leonhardt, bass**
Dec 24 & 26-28

• **Junior Mance, piano
Marty Rivera, bass**
Dec 31 & Jan 2-4

Knickerbocker Bar & Grill
33 University Place
228-8490

• **Jr. Walker & the All
Stars**
Dec 27

• **Screaming Jay Hawkins**
Dec 31

Lone Star Roadhouse •
240 W 52nd St • 245-2950

• **LaVern Baker**
Through Jan 5
Michael's Pub • 211 E.
55th St • 758-2272

• **Reggie Wells**
Dec 31
New York Marriot, East
Side • 525 Lexington Ave
• Morgan Ballroom

• **Jane Jarvis plays**
Christmas Carols on the
Organ
Dec 24, 7 pm

• **Jazz Vespers: Ivan Rolle
& his All Stars**
Dec 29, 5 pm

• **Jack Sheedy & Jazz
Times**
Dec 29, 7 pm

• **Jazz Watch Night: Jazz
Party to usher in the
New Year**
Dec 31, 11 pm

• **Jazz Mass: Eddie
Bonnemere, Orchestra,
JESU Choir**
Jan 5, 5 pm

St. Peter's Church • the
Living Room • Lexington
Ave/54th St • 688-6022

• **Baba Olatunji**
Dec 26

• **Yomo Toro**
Dec 27

• **Black Stalin**
Dec 28

S.O.B.'s • 204 Varick
St/Houston • 243-4940

• **Don Grolnick Septet**
Dec 24-29

• **Nat Adderley Quintet**
Dec 31-Jan 5

• **Eddie Chamblee Quartet**
Saturdays, 2-6 pm

• **Doc Cheatham**
Sundays, 3-7 pm

Sweet Basil • 8 Seventh
Ave/Bleecker • 242-1785

• **The Persuasions**
Dec 27

Sweetwaters • 170
Amsterdam Ave/68th St •
873-4100

• **Roy Hargrove**
Dec 24-29

Village Vanguard • 178
7th Ave South • 255-4037

• **William Galison Quartet**
Dec 26

• **Renee Manning Septet**
Dec 27, 28 & 29

Visiones • 125 MacDougal
St • 673-5576

• **Sara Dash**
Dec 27 & 28

West Side Story • 700
Columbus Ave at 95th St
• 749-1900

• **Junior Mance & Marty
Rivera**
Dec 23-28

Zinno • 126 W. 13th St •
924-5182

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ROUTES, A Weekly Guide to African-American Culture

Old Chelsea Station, P.O. BOX 20103
NEW YORK, NY 10011

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

- Queens -

The Scene

*New Year's Eve
Celebration*

133-18 Guy Brewer Blvd •
Jamaica • (718) 525-9256

- Long Island -

Hugh (Happy) Porter

Butler's Quarters • 736
Fulton Ave • Hempstead •
(516) 483-9078

Sugar Ray's

(Formerly Machines)

Thursday Nights, Melonie
Rose of WBL5
2686 Hempstead Tpke •
Levittown • (516) 731-1010

- New Jersey -

Bucky Pizzarelli Quartet

Dec 27-28

Trumpets • 6 Depot Square
Montclair • (201) 746-6100

CONCERTS

• O'Jays & Levert

Dec 28, 7 pm & 9 pm

• Stephanie Mills & Peabo

Bryson

Dec 31

• Amateur Night

Wednesdays

Apollo Theatre • 253 W.
125th St • 864-0372

RESTAURANTS

B. Smith's

*Southern & American
cuisine*

Trendy

771 Eighth Ave • 247-2222

Copeland's

Southern cuisine

A Harlem institution

547 W. 145th St • 234-2457

Caribe

Jamaican cuisine

Pleasant and informal, cash
only.

117 Perry St/ Greenwich St
255-9191

Honeysuckle

Southern cuisine • Trendy

507 Columbus Ave
496-8095

Jamaican "Hot Pot"

Small restaurant of 7-8
tables—but has a large

reputation for good food at
bargain prices.

2260 Adam Clayton
Powell, Jr., Blvd/133rd St
491-5270

Vernon's Jerk Paradise

Jamaican cuisine

Jerk preparation of meats.

252 W. 29th St • 268-7020

• *Reviewed in 7/29/91 issue.*

Jezebel

Southern/American cuisine

Scarfs, swings and
sophistication.

630 Ninth Ave/45th St

582-1045

La Famille Restaurant

Southern cuisine

Roomy and informal

2017 5th Ave/ 125th St

534-9909

Livi's Restaurant

Caribbean & Southern

cuisine • Informal

29 E. 126th St/ Mad. & 5th

Aves • 831-4931

MoBay

Jamaican & Southern

cuisine

248 W. 14th St (Bet. 7th &

8th Aves) • 255-7735

Mr. Leo

Southern cuisine

Authentic Southern cuisine

17 W. 27 St/ (Bway & 5th)

532-6673

Pan Pan 5th Avenue

Restaurant/Cafe

Southern cuisine

Relaxed and informal

1325 5th Ave/110th &

111th Sts • 996-1212. •

Reviewed in 10/20/91

issue.

Perk's Fine Cuisine

Fine cuisine

Elegant & trendy

Dancing Wed- Sat, 11 pm.

553 Manhattan Ave/123rd

St • 666-8500 • *Reviewed*

in 9/8/91 issue.

The Shark Bar

Southern cuisine

Saturday Gospel Brunch

12:30 & 2:30 pm

307 Amsterdam Ave/74th

& 75th Sts • 874-8500

Sylvia's

Southern cuisine

Relaxed and informal

328 Lenox Ave • (126 &
127th Sts) • 996-0660

Third World Cafe

Third World cuisine/spices

used are from West Africa)

A very special little cafe.

700 W. 125th St /West Side

Hway • 749-8199

Wilson's Restaurant &

Bakery

Southern Cuisine

A Harlem institution.

1980 Amsterdam Ave/

158th St • 923-9821

- Brooklyn -

Greene Avenue Grill

Grilled American &

Southern cuisine

Relaxed and informal

13 Greene Ave/Fulton St •

(718) 797-2099

Keur n' Deye

Senegalese Cuisine

Relaxed and informal

737 Fulton St (S. Elliot St.

& S. Portland Ave • (718)

875-4937

McDonald's Dining Room

Country home cooking

Relaxed and informal

327 Stuyvesant Ave • (718)

574-3728 • Tues-Sun

Sheila's

Southern Cuisine

Relaxed and informal.

Intimate two level dining.

Wed-Sun • 271 Adelphi St

• (718) 935-0292

Two Steps Down

Southern and West Indian

Cuisine

Relaxed and informal.

Intimate 2 level dining.

240 Dekalb Ave • (718)

935-0292

- Queens -

Carmichael's

Southern cuisine

Informal

117-08 Guy Brewer Blvd •

Jamaica • (718) 723-6908

Continued on Page 8

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• **Champagne Jazz Brunch**
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• **Gene Jefferson, sax & his
International Combo**
Every Thursday

23-04 94th St • East
Elmhurst • (718) 458-2172

Manhattan Proper Cafe
Southern cuisine

217-01 Linden Blvd / •
Springfield Blvd • (718)
341-CAFE

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specialty*

200-05 Linden Blvd • St.
Albans • (718) 341-2664

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Brennen's Value Flea
Market • 137-07 Bedell St
• Jamaica • (718) 276-5180

• **Long Island** •

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Elegant

590 Sunrise Highway •
Baldwin • (516) 223-9426

**Nakisaki International
Restaurant**
*Jamaican & Chinese
cuisine*

Takeout Service too
276 Fulton Ave • Hemp-
stead • (516) 292-9200

THEATER

**The \$100,000 Tragic
Mulatto**
Through Dec 29

About a sought-after prize
to be won by one of "Three
Specimen" on a special TV
comedy game show, hosted
by Vendetta Goldwoman,
(Hazelle Goodman)

Written by Lisa Jones and
directed by Chuck E. Wise
Frank Silvera Writers
Workshop • 317 W 125th
St • 662-8463

Negro Ensemble Company
Just a Night Out
Through February
A musical love story in
that takes place during the
1950s Chitlin' circuit
period.

At the Top of the Village
Gate • Bleecker/Thompson
Sts • 295-4694 or 307-4100

Billie, Malcolm & Yusuf
Through Dec 29
A musical, drama, Emmy
Straight, fourth-rate comic,
turns up in Heaven to find
Billie Holiday, Malcolm X
and Yusuf Hawkins
trapped in their own
greatness and brings them
"down to earth."

Castillo Cultural Center •
500 Greenwich St • 941-
5800

Continued on Page 9

From The Mississippi Delta

Written by **Endesha Ida Mae Holland**, directed by **Jonathan Wilson**. Endesha Ida Mae Holland's boldly inspirational, gutsy and often hilarious autobiographical play. It follows her life as she blazes her way from rebellious young prostitute to PhD.

Circle-In-The-Square (Downtown) • 159 Bleecker St • 254-6330

The Wake

Dec 27-Jan 5, 1992

A comedy about a man who plans to attend his own wake.

The Gene Frankel Theatre • 24 Bond St (Bet. Lafayette & Bowery) • (718) 452-3952

Thoughts of A Confused Black Man

Fridays & Saturdays, 8 pm
An African's experience in America

Harlem School of The Arts • 645 St. Nicholas Ave • 926-4100

Six Degrees of Separation
Courtney B. Vance

Set in Manhattan, about a con artist at an elegant dinner party.

Vivian Beaumont Theater B'way/65th St • 239-6200

Don't Explain

Through Dec 29

Written by **Samuel Harps**, directed by **Rome Neal**

A dramatic presentation with music about the late Jazz trumpeter **Lee Morgan**. Recipient of 7 AUDELCO awards

Nuyorican Poets' Cafe • 236 E. 3rd St (Bet. Aves B & C) • 465-3167

The Banjo Lesson

Through Jan 5

The play, written and directed by **Van Dirck Fisher** story about the estrange relationship between a father and daughter and how the relationship changes once she brings her son with her on a visit with the father.

Tony Salas, Henry Hayward, Audrey

Dummett, Edythe Davis

The Riant Theatre • 161 Hudson St, 4th Fl • 925-8353

• Brooklyn •

Lotto

Through Jan 26, 1992

The Benson family, a typical family, convinced, that winning the lottery will solve all of their problems. One day they actually hit the jackpot for \$20 million. Lotto is zany and funny.

The Billie Holiday Theatre • 1368 Fulton St • (718) 636-0918/9

• Long Island •

The Real Malcom X

Dec 28, 5 pm

New Roosevelt Center • 55 Mansfield Ave • Roosevelt • (516) 867-8207

DANCE

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Through Dec 29

City Center Theatre • 131 W. 55th St • 581-7907

ART GALLERIES

Djenne Terracotta

Through Dec 31

Sculpture dating prior to the 16th century from the inland delta of the Niger River.

Arts du Monde • 154 Spring St • 226-3702

Holiday Prints, Drawings

Through Jan 20

Robert Blackburn, Betty Blayton, Edward Clark, Nanette Carter, Gregory Coates, Nadine De Lawrence, Alejandra Delfin, Melvin Edwards, Gilbert Fletcher, William Hutson, Gerald Jackson, James Little, Al Loving, Tyrone Mitchell, Jack Whitten, Charles White, Frank Wimberley, Richard Yarde

The Cinque Gallery • 560 Broadway/Prince St • Room 504 • 560-2098

Lloyd Yearwood

The Black Indians in New Orleans

Through Dec 31

Harlem Branch Library • 9 West 124th St • 348-5620

Carl Van Vechten—American Portraits:

Harlem Heroes

Through Jan 11

Manhattan East Gallery of Fine Arts • 202 E. 76th St

Marble & Granite Gallery

Featuring Zambian sculptor **Remmie Sicalwe**, and a granite sculpture collection from Zimbabwe.

Marble & Granite Gallery 340 West 14th St (bet. 8th & 9th Aves) • 741-3399

MUSEUMS & CULTURAL CENTERS

Kwanzaa Programs at the American Museum of Natural History

• African Marketplace

Dec 27, 10 am-6 pm

Traditional African crafts and foods will be on sale.

Akeley Hall of African Mammals and the Hall of Ocean Life

• Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

Dec 28, 2 pm & 4 pm

A puppet adaptation of an African folktale will be performed by the **Brewery Puppet Troup**.

Henry Kaufmann Theater of the Charles A. Dana Education Wing

• Monkey Crocodile

Dec 28, 1 pm & 3 pm

Performances of African folktales by **Cheryl Byron & Something Positive**

Henry Kaufmann Theater of the Charles A. Dana Education Wing

• Principles of Kwanzaa Movement Workshop

Dec 28, 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm & 4 pm

Marlise Yearby will perform the dance movements of the **Kwanzaa Principles**.

Edith C. Blum classroom of the Charles A. Dana Education Wing

• Tie Dye Workshop

Dec 28, 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm & 4 pm

Louis Calder Laboratory of the

Charles A. Dana
Education Wing

- **Traditional and Contemporary Afro-Brazilian Rhythms**
Dec 29, 2 pm & 4 pm
Candomble and Maculele will be performed by Viva Brazil.

Henry Kaufmann Theater
of the Charles A. Dana
Education Wing

- **Songs of Kwanzaa**
Dec 29, 1 pm & 3 pm
Jazz music and dance in the context of the *Seven Principles of Kwanzaa*, will be presented by Mickey D. & Friends.
Harold F. Linder Theater
of the Charles A. Dana
Education wing

American Museum of
Natural History • Central
Park West/79th St • 769-
5800

- **Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art**
Through December '91
Exhibit explores the continuing vitality of traditional art which coexists today with a modern art that is uniquely African.

The Center for African Art
54 E. 68th St (Bet. Mad. &
Lex Aves) 861-1200.

- **Come all you Gallant Heroes: The World of the Revolutionary Soldier**
Through Aug 14, 1992
The exhibition chronicles the experiences of soldiers in the Continental Army during the War for American Independence. Excerpts from the diaries of soldiers are posted on the walls, including one from ex-slave and freeman Jacob Francis.

Fraunces Tavern Museum
• 54 Pearl St • 425-1776

- **Picturing Africa: Photographs of the Zulu, 1870-1900**
Through Jan 31
Mezzanine, Michael C. Rockefeller Wing
19th century albumen prints by European colonial photographers of the Zulu peoples..

Metropolitan Museum of
Art • Fifth Ave & 82nd St
• 535-7710

- **Pleasures and Terrors of Domestic Comfort**
Through-Dec 31

The current state of the American Dream of domestic happiness is examined in this photography exhibition. Contributing photographers:

Albert Chong, Marilyn Nance, John Pinderhughes, Carrie Mae Weems

- **Word 2 My Mother**
Through Jan 19, 1992
Video installation by Tony Cokes. Employing visual and textual materials, Coke examines his mother's life and experiences.

The Museum of Modern
Art • 11 W. 53rd St • 708-
9400

- **Interrupted Life**
Through Dec 29
A multi-disciplinary exhibition examining the theme of death in the Western world.

- **James Van Der Zee**
photos are a part of the exhibition.

The New Museum of
Contemporary Art • 583
B'way/Houston • 219-1222

- **The African Presence in the Americas**
Through December

- **African-Americans in Space Science**
Through December

- **Guided tours by appointment only**
The Schomburg Center for
Research in Black Culture
• 515 Lenox Ave/ 135th St
• 491-2200

- **Africa and the Diaspora: Selections from the Permanent Collection**
Through Jun 7, 1992
Includes 95 paintings.
Exhibition examines the

influence of African art and culture on the art, artists, and culture of the Americas and the Caribbean.

- **From the Studio: Artists-in-Residence, 1990-91**
Through Mar 1

Ada Pilar Cruz, ceramic sculptor; Leonardo D. Drew, sculptor; Eve Sandler, painter

Studio Museum of Harlem
144 W. 125th St • 864-4500

• Queens •

- **Malcolm X: The Man, The Meaning**
Through Jan 25

This exhibit explores the life and philosophy of one of the most charismatic, well-known and respected African American leaders of the 20th Century.

Jamaica Arts Center • 161-
04 Jamaica Ave • (718) 658-
7400

• Long Island •

- **Kwanzaa**
Dec 29, 2-4 pm
African-American Museum
• 110 N. Franklin St.
Hempstead • (516) 485-
0470

FREE FOR ALL

• Bronx •

- **Kwanzaa workshop**
Dec 30 & 31, 11 am-2 pm.
Children ages 4 and up will be told the history and purpose of the African-American holiday period and make various related symbols like the hinara, a candleholder.
- **Kwanzaa Party**
Dec 31, 2 pm
Bronx Museum of the Arts
• 1040 Grand Concourse at
E. 161st St • 681-1000

Our Next Issue is
January 6, 1991
Happy New Year

Hillside Inn

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Club Harambee

YOUR AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL NIGHT CLUB

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Calypso King **Mighty Sparrow**

& from Senegal

Mor Thiam and his Drums of Fire

Complimentary Champagne • International Buffet Dinner •
Noise Makers

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