

JANUS FILMS PRESENTS



**AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION**

JANUS FILMS
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AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

SERIES SYNOPSIS

Arguably the most celebrated Japanese filmmaker of all time, Akira Kurosawa had a career that spanned from the Second World War to the early nineties and that stands as a monument of artistic, entertainment, and personal achievement. His best-known films remain his samurai epics *Seven Samurai* and *Yojimbo*, but his intimate dramas, such as *Ikiru* and *High and Low*, are just as searing. The first serious phase of Kurosawa's career came during the postwar era, with *Drunken Angel* and *Stray Dog*, gritty dramas about people on the margins of society that featured the first notable appearances by Toshiro Mifune, the director's longtime leading man. Kurosawa would subsequently gain international fame with *Rashomon*, a breakthrough in nonlinear narrative and sumptuous visuals. Following a personal breakdown in the late sixties, Kurosawa rebounded by expanding his dark brand of humanism into new stylistic territory, beginning with *Dodes'ka-den*, his first film in color. Janus Films is proud to honor the 100th anniversary of his birth with a nationwide tour of fifteen key films, including new 35mm prints of *Stray Dog*, *Rashomon*, and the previously unavailable *Dodes'ka-den*.

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

DRUNKEN ANGEL

In this powerful early noir, Toshiro Mifune bursts onto the screen as a volatile, tubercular criminal who strikes up an unlikely relationship with Takashi Shimura's jaded physician. Set in and around the muddy swamps and back alleys of postwar Tokyo, *Drunken Angel* is an evocative, moody snapshot of a treacherous time and place, featuring one of the director's most memorably violent climaxes.

Cast:

Matsunaga	Toshiro Mifune
Doctor Sanada	Takashi Shimura
Okada	Reisaburo Yamamoto
Nanae	Michiyo Kogure
Nurse Miyo	Chieko Nakakita
Gin	Noriko Sengoku
Singer	Shizuko Kasagi
Takahama	Eitarô Shindô
Boss	Masao Shimizu
Shop Proprietor	Taiji Tonoyama
Schoolgirl	Yoshiko Kuga
Old maid servant	Choko Iida
Yakuza Follower	Akira Tani
Guitar Player	Sachio Sakai
Flower Shop Proprietor	Katao Kawasaki
Dancer	Haruko Toyama
Dancer	Yôko Sugi

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producer	Sojiro Motoki
Scenario	Akira Kurosawa Keinosuke Uegusa
Photography	Takeo Ito
Art director	So Matsuyama
Sound	Wataro Kanuma
Lighting	Kinzo Yoshizawa

1948/98 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

STRAY DOG

New 35mm Print!

A bad day gets worse for young detective Murakami when a pickpocket steals his gun on a hot, crowded bus. Desperate to right the wrong, he goes undercover, scavenging Tokyo's sweltering streets for the stray dog whose desperation has led him to a life of crime. With each step, cop and criminal's lives become more intertwined and the investigation becomes an examination of Murakami's own dark side. Starring Toshiro Mifune as the rookie cop, and Takashi Shimura as the seasoned detective who keeps him on the right side of the law, *Stray Dog* goes beyond a crime thriller, probing the squalid world of postwar Japan and the nature of the criminal mind.

Cast:

Murakami	Toshiro Mifune
Sato	Takashi Shimura
Harumi Namaki	Keiko Awaji
Girl	Noriko Sengoku
Wooden Tub Shop woman	Fumiko Homma
Kiyoshi Nagata	Yasushi Nagata
Yuro	Isao Kimura
Girlie Show director	Minoru Chiaki
Yayoi Hotel owner	Ichirō Sugai
Police Inspector Nakajima	Gen Shimizu
Police Officer	Hiroshi Yanagiya
Criminal Identification Officer	Hajime Izu
Nakamura	Masao Shimizu
Old Landlord	Kokuten Kodo
Bluebird Theatre manager	Yunosuke Ito
Police Doctor	Akira Ubukata
Sakura Hotel manager	Fujio Nagahama
Sei-san, hotel worker	Isao Ikkaku

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producer	Sojiro Motoki
Scenario	Akira Kurosawa Ryuzo Kikushima
Photography	Asakazu Nakai
Editors	Toshio Goto Yoshi Sugihara
Art director	So Matsuyama
Music	Fumio Hayasaka
Sound	Fumio Yanoguchi
Lighting	Choshiro Ichii

1949/122 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

RASHOMON

New restoration – new 35mm print!

Brimming with action while incisively examining the nature of truth, *Rashomon* is perhaps the finest film ever made to investigate the philosophy of justice. Through an ingenious use of camera and flashbacks, Kurosawa reveals the complexities of human nature as four people recount different versions of the story of a man's murder and the rape of his wife. Toshiro Mifune gives a commanding performance as a bandit in this eloquent masterwork that revolutionized film language and introduced Japanese cinema to the world.

Cast:

The Bandit	Toshiro Mifune
The Woman	Machiko Kyo
The Man	Masayuki Mori
The Woodcutter	Takashi Shimura
The Priest	Minoru Chiaki
The Commoner	Kichijiro Ueda
The Medium	Fumiko Honma
The Policeman	Daisuke Kato

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Executive producer	Masaichi Nagata
Producer	Jingo Minoura
Scenario	Akira Kurosawa Shinobu Hashimoto
Based on two stories by	Ryunosuke Akutagawa
Photography	Kazuo Miyagawa
Art director	So Matsuyama
Music	Takashi Matsuyama
Lighting	Kenichi Okamoto

1950/88 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

IKIRU

Considered by some to be Akira Kurosawa's greatest achievement, *Ikiru* presents the director at his most compassionate—affirming life through an exploration of a man's death. Takashi Shimura portrays Kanji Watanabe, an aging bureaucrat with stomach cancer forced to strip the veneer off his existence and find meaning in his final days. Told in two parts, *Ikiru* offers Watanabe's quest in the present, and then through a series of flashbacks. The result is a multifaceted look at a life through a prism of perspectives, resulting in a full portrait of a man who lacked understanding from others while alive.

Cast:

Kanji Watanabe	Takashi Shimura
Mitsuo Watanabe	Nobuo Kaneko
Kazue Watanabe	Kyoko Seki
Kiichi Watanabe	Makoto Kobori
Tatsu Watanabe	Kumeko Urabe
The maid	Yoshie Minami
Toyo Odagiri	Miki Odagiri

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Scenario	Shinobu Hashimoto Hideo Oguni Akira Kurosawa
Producer	Shojiro Motoki
Photography	Asakazu Nakai
Art director	So Matsuyama
Lighting	Shigeru Mori
Sound	Fumio Yanoguchi
Music	Fumio Hayasaka

1952/143 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

SEVEN SAMURAI

A desperate village hires seven samurai to protect it from marauders in this crown jewel of Japanese cinema. No other film so seamlessly weaves philosophy and entertainment, delicate human emotions and relentless action. Probably the most well known Akira Kurosawa title, *Seven Samurai* inspired the U.S. remake *Magnificent Seven*.

Cast:

Kikuchiyo	Toshiro Mifune
Kambei	Takashi Shimura
Shino	Keiko Tsushima
Wife	Yukio Shimazaki
Farmer Manzo	Kamatari Fujiwara
Shichiroji	Daisuke Kato
Katsushiro	Isao Kimura
Heihachi	Minoru Chiaki
Kyuzo	Seiji Miyaguchi
Farmer Mosuke	Yoshio Kosugi
Farmer Yohei	Bokuzen Hidari
Gorobei	Yoshio Inaba

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producer	Sojiro Motoki
Scenario	Akira Kurosawa Shinobu Hashimoto Hideo Oguni
Photography	Asakazu Nakai
Art director	So Matsuyama
Music	Fumio Hayasaka
Historical research	Kohei Ezaki (folklore) Yoshio Sugino (fencing) Ienori Kaneko (archery) Shigeru Endo (archery)
Assistant director	Hiromichi Horikawa
Production manager	Hiroshi Nezu

1954/207 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

I LIVE IN FEAR

Both the final film of the period in which Akira Kurosawa would directly wrestle with the demons of the Second World War and his most literal representation of living in an atomic age, the galvanizing *I Live in Fear* presents Toshiro Mifune as an elderly, stubborn businessman so fearful of a nuclear attack that he resolves to move his reluctant family to South America. With this mournful film, the director depicts a society emerging from the shadows but still terrorized by memories of the past and anxieties for the future.

Cast:

Kiichi Nakajima	Toshiro Mifune
Jiro	Minoru Chiaki
Okamoto	Kamatari Fujiwara
Susumu	Kazuo Kato
Araki, the judge	Ken Mitsuda
Toyo	Eiko Miyoshi
Kiichi's first mistress	Kiyomi Mizunoya
Psychiatrist	Nobuo Nakamura
Asako, the mistress	Akemi Negishi
Hori, the lawyer	Toranosuke Ogawa
Ichiro	Yutaka Sada
Kimie, Ichiro's wife	Noriko Sengoku
Yamazaki, Yoshi's husband	Masao Shimizu
Harada	Takashi Shimura
Ryoichi	Hiroshi Tachikawa

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producer	Sojiro Motoki
Scenario	Shinobu Hashimoto Akira Kurosawa Hideo Oguni
Photography	Asakazu Nakai
Art director	Yoshirô Muraki
Music	Fumio Hayasaka Masaru Satô
Sound	Fumio Yanoguchi
Lighting	Kuichiro Kishida

1955/103 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

THRONE OF BLOOD

One of the most celebrated screen adaptations of Shakespeare, Akira Kurosawa's *Throne of Blood* reimagines Macbeth in feudal Japan. Starring Kurosawa's longtime collaborator Toshiro Mifune and the legendary Isuzu Yamada as his ruthless wife, the film tells of a valiant warrior's savage rise to power and his ignominious fall. With *Throne of Blood*, Kurosawa fuses one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies with the formal elements of Japanese Noh theater to make a Macbeth that is all his own—a classic tale of ambition and duplicity set against a ghostly landscape of fog and inescapable doom.

Cast:

Taketori Washizu	Toshiro Mifune
Asaji	Isuzu Yamada
Yoshiaki Miki	Minoru Chiaki
Noriyasu Odagura	Takashi Shimura
Yoshiteru	Akira Kubo
Kuniharu's Son	Hiroshi Tachikawa
Witch	Chieko Naniwa
Kuniharu Tsuzuki	Takamaru Sasaki

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producers	Akira Kurosawa Shojiro Motoki
Scenario	Shinobu Hashimoto Ryuzo Kikushima Akira Kurosawa Hideo Oguni
Photography	Asakazu Nakai
Editor	Akira Kurosawa
Production design	Yoshirō Muraki Kōhei Ezaki
Music	Masaru Satō
Sound	Fumio Yanoguchi
Lighting	Kuichiro Kishida

1957/109 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

THE LOWER DEPTHS

Akira Kurosawa's adaptation of Maxim Gorky's classic play stars Toshiro Mifune as Sutekichi, a thief living in a squalid tenement who is having an affair with his landlord's wife. Turning his attentions to his lover's younger sister, he quickly finds himself trapped in a web of jealousy and violence. Focusing as much on the colorful tenement residents as his main characters, Kurosawa adeptly explores the themes of class difference and the conflict between reality and illusion that he would return to again and again.

Cast:

Sutekichi (the thief)	Toshiro Mifune
Osugi (the landlady)	Isuzu Yamada
Okayo (her sister)	Kyoko Kagawa
Rokubei (her husband)	Ganjiro Nakamura
The gambler	Koji Mitsui
The actor	Kamatari Fujiwara
The prostitute	Akemi Negishi
The ex-samurai	Minoru Chiaki

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producers	Akira Kurosawa Shojiro Motoki
Scenario	Akira Kurosawa Hideo Oguni
Photography	Kazuo Yamasaki
Art director	Yoshiro Muraki
Music	Masaru Satô
Sound	Fumio Yanoguchi
Lighting	Shigeru Mori

1957/125 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

THE HIDDEN FORTRESS

A general and a princess must dodge enemy clans while smuggling the royal treasure out of hostile territory with two bumbling, conniving peasants at their sides; it's a spirited adventure that only Akira Kurosawa could create. Acknowledged as a primary influence on George Lucas' *Star Wars*, *The Hidden Fortress* delivers Kurosawa's inimitably deft blend of wry humor, breathtaking action and humanist compassion on an epic scale.

Cast:

General Rokurota Makabe	Toshiro Mifune
Tahei	Minoru Chiaki
Matashichi	Kamatari Fujiwara
Hyo Tadokoro	Susumu Fujita
Princess Yuki	Misa Uehara

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producers	Sanezumi Fujimoto Akira Kurosawa
Scenario	Ryuzo Kikushima Hideo Oguni Shinobu Hashimoto
Music	Akira Kurosawa Masaru Sato
Art director	Yoshiro Muraki
Photography	Ichio Yamazaki

1958/139 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

THE BAD SLEEP WELL

A young executive hunts down his father's killer in director Akira Kurosawa's scathing *The Bad Sleep Well*. Continuing his legendary collaboration with actor Toshiro Mifune, Kurosawa combines elements of *Hamlet* and American film noir to chilling effect in exposing the corrupt boardrooms of postwar corporate Japan.

Cast:

Koichi Nishi	Toshiro Mifune
Itakura	Takeshi Kato
Company President Iwabuchi	Masayuki Mori
Administrative Officer Moriyama	Takashi Shimura
Contract Officer Shirai	Ko Nishimura
Accountant Wada	Kamatari Fujiwara
Accountant Shimura	Gen Shimizu
Kieko Nishi	Kyôko Kagawa
Tatsuo Iwabuchi	Tatsuya Mihashi
Kaneko	Kyu Sazanka
Public Prosecutor Nonaka	Chishu Ryu
Okakura	Seiji Miyaguchi
Lawyer	Nobuo Nakamura
Commissioner	Susumu Fujita

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Executive producer	Masaichi Nagata
Producers	Tomoyuki Tanaka
	Akira Kurosawa
Scenario	Akira Kurosawa
	Shinobu Hashimoto
	Eijirô Hisaita
	Ryuzo Kikushima
	Hideo Oguni
Photography	Yuzuru Aizawa
Editing	Akira Kurosawa
Art director	Yoshirô Muraki
Music	Masaru Satô
Lighting	Ichirô Inohara
Production supervisor	Hiroshi Nezu
Sound	Hisashi Shimonaga
	Fumio Yanoguchi

1960/150 Minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

YOJIMBO

The incomparable Toshiro Mifune stars in Akira Kurosawa's visually stunning and darkly comic *Yojimbo*. To rid a terror-stricken village of corruption, wily masterless samurai Sanjuro turns a range war between two evil clans to his own advantage. Remade twice, by Sergio Leone and Walter Hill, this exhilarating genre-twister remains one of the most influential and entertaining films of all time.

Cast:

Sanjuro Kuwabatake	Toshiro Mifune
Gonji	Eijiro Tono
Tazaemon	Kamatari Fujiwara
Tokuemon	Takashi Shimura
Seibei	Seizaburo Kawazu
Orin	Isuzu Yamada
Yoichiro	Hiroshi Tachikawa
Ushitora	Kyu Sazanka
Unosuke	Tatsuya Nakadai
Inokichi	Daisuke Kato
Hansuke	Ikio Sawamura
Kuma	Ko Nishimura
Kohei	Yoshio Tsuchiya
Nui	Yoko Tsukasa
Homma	Susumu Fujita

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Scenario	Ryuzo Kikushima
Producers	Akira Kurosawa Tomoyuki Tanaka
Photography	Ryuzo Kikushima
Art director	Kazuo Miyagawa
Music	Yoshiro Muraki Masaru Sato

1961/110 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

SANJURO

Toshiro Mifune swaggers and snarls to brilliant comic effect in Kurosawa's tightly paced, beautifully composed *Sanjuro*. In this companion piece and sequel to *Yojimbo*, jaded samurai Sanjuro helps an idealistic group of young warriors weed out their clan's evil influences, and in the process turns their image of a "proper" samurai on its ear.

Cast:

Sanjuro Tsubaki	Toshiro Mifune
Hanbei Muroto	Tatsuya Nakadai
The spy	Keiju Kobayashi
Iro Izaka, samurai leader	Yuzo Kayama
Chidori	Reiko Dan
Kurofuji	Takashi Shimura
Takebayashi	Kamatari Fujiwara
Mutsuta's wife	Takako Irie
Mutsuta, the chamberlain	Yunosuke Ito
Kikui, the superintendent	Masao Shimizu
Samurai	Akira Kubo
	Hiroshi Tachikawa
	Yoshio Tsuchiya
	Kunie Tanaka
	Akihiko Hirata
	Tatsuyoshi Ehara
	Toranosuke Ogawa
	Tatsuhiko Hari
	Kenzo Matsui

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producers	Tomoyuki Tanaka
	Ryuzo Kikushima
Scenario	Ryuzo Kikushima
	Hideo Oguni
	Akira Kurosawa
Based on a novel by	Shugoro Yamamoto
Photography	Fukuzo Koizumi, Takao Saito
Art director	Yoshiro Muraki
Music	Masaru Sato

1962/96 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HIGH AND LOW

Toshiro Mifune is unforgettable as Kingo Gondo, a wealthy industrialist whose family becomes the target of a cold-blooded kidnapper in Akira Kurosawa's highly influential *High and Low*. Adapting Ed McBain's detective novel *King's Ransom*, Kurosawa moves effortlessly from compelling race-against-time thriller to exacting social commentary, creating a penetrating portrait of contemporary Japanese society.

Cast:

Kingo Gondo	Toshiro Mifune
Reiko	Kyoko Kagawa
Kawanishi	Tatsuya Mihashi
Aoki	Yutaka Sada
Inspector Tokuro	Tatsuya Nakadai
Director	Takashi Shimura
Commissioner	Susumu Fujita
Detective Taguchi	Kenjiro Ishiyama
Detective Arai	Ko Kimura
Detective Nakao	Takeshi Kato
Detective Murata	Yoshio Tsuchiyama
Detective Shimada	Hiroshi Unayama
Newspaperman	Koji Mitsui
Ginji Takeuchi	Tsutomu Yamazaki

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producers	Tomoyuki Tanaka Ryuzo Kikushima
Scenario	Ryuzo Kikushima Hideo Oguni Akira Kurosawa
Based on a novel by	Ed McBain (Evan Hunter)
Photography	Asakazu Nakai
Art director	Yoshiro Muraki
Lighting	Ichiro Inohara
Sound	Hisahi Shimonaga
Music	Masaru Sato

1963/143 minutes/Black and White and Color/Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

RED BEARD

A testament to the goodness of humankind, Akira Kurosawa's *Red Beard* chronicles the tumultuous relationship between an arrogant young doctor and a compassionate clinic director. Toshiro Mifune, in his last role for Kurosawa, gives a powerhouse performance as the dignified yet empathic director who guides his pupil to maturity, teaching the embittered intern to appreciate the lives of his destitute patients. Perfectly capturing the look and feel of 19th-century Japan, Kurosawa weaves a fascinating tapestry of time, place, and emotion.

Cast:

Redbeard	Toshiro Mifune
Noboru Yasumoto	Yuzo Kayama
Handayu Mori	Yoshio Tsuchiya
Genzo Tsugawa	Tatsuyoshi Ehara
Osugi	Reiko Dan
Mad Woman	Kyoko Kagawa
Rokusuke	Kamatari Fujiwara
Okuni, the mistress	Akemi Negishi
Sahachi	Tsutomu Yamazaki
Onaka	Miyuki Kuwano
Goheiji	Eijiro Tono
Tokub	Takashi Shimura

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producers	Ryuzo Kikushima Tomoyuki Tanaka
Scenario	Masato Ide Ryuzo Kikushima Akira Kurosawa Hideo Oguni
Based on a novel by	Shugoro Yamamoto
Photography	Asaichi Nakai Takao Saito
Art director	So Matsuyama
Music	Masaru Sato
Lighting	Hiromitsu Mori

1965/185 minutes/Black and White/Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

DODES-KA'DEN

New 35mm print!

By turns tragic and transcendent, Akira Kurosawa's film follows the daily lives of a group of people barely scraping by in a slum on the outskirts of Tokyo. Yet as desperate as their circumstances are, each of them—the homeless father and son envisioning their dream house; the young woman abused by her uncle; the boy who imagines himself a trolley conductor—finds reasons to carry on. The unforgettable *Dodes'ka-den* was made at a tumultuous moment in Kurosawa's life. And all of his hopes, fears, and artistic passion are on fervent display in this, his gloriously shot first color film.

Cast:

Rokkuchan	Yoshitaka Zushi
Rokkuchan's mother	Kin Sugai
Shima	Junzaburo Ban
Shima's wife	Kiyoko Tange
Masuda	Hisashi Igawa
Tatsu, Masuda's wife	Hideko Okiyama
Kawaguchi	Kunie Tanaka
Yoshiko, Kawaguchi's wife	Jitsuko Yoshimura
Ryo Sawagami	Shinsuke Minami
Sawagami's wife	Yoko Kusunoki
Beggar	Noboru Mitani
Beggar's son	Hiroyuki Kawase
Hei	Hiroshi Akutagawa

Credits:

Director	Akira Kurosawa
Producer	Yoichi Matsue
Music	Toru Takemitsu
Photography	Takao Saitô
Editing	Reiko Kaneko
Sound	Fumio Yanoguchi
	Hiromitsu Mori
Script supervisor	Teruyo Nogami
Executive producers	Kon Ichikawa
	Keisuke Kinoshita
	Masaki Kobayashi
	Akira Kurosawa

1970/144 minutes/Color/Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

AKIRA KUROSAWA: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

AKIRA KUROSAWA FILMOGRAPHY

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One Wonderful Sunday (1947)
Drunken Angel (1948)
The Quiet Duel (1949)
Stray Dog (1949)
Scandal (1950)
Rashomon (1950)
The Idiot (1951)
Ikiru (1952)
Seven Samurai (1954)
I Live in Fear (1955)
Throne of Blood (1957)
The Lower Depths (1957)
The Hidden Fortress (1958)
The Bad Sleep Well (1960)
Yojimbo (1961)
Sanjuro (1962)
High and Low (1963)
Red Beard (1965)
Dodes'ka-den (1970)
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