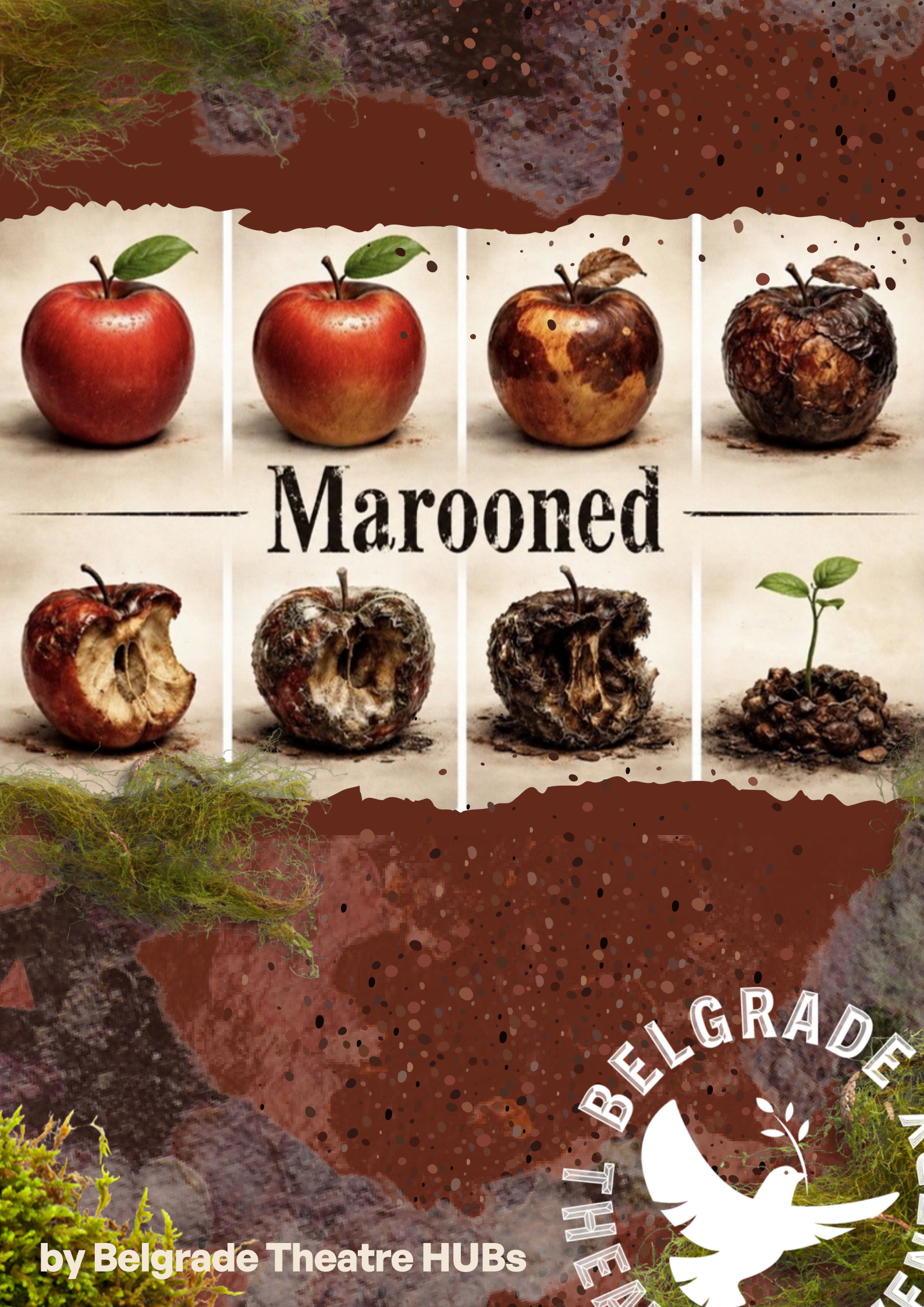




Marooned

by Belgrade Theatre HUBs



A Message from the Creative Youth Forum

The Belgrade's Creative Youth Forum is a yearlong programme for young producers interested in designing and developing storytelling and engagement opportunities around our annual Hubs sharing.

Welcome to the Belgrade Theatre! Our groups have been working hard this year to create the shows you are about to see, and we are excited to welcome you.

As a youth forum, one of the things we have focused on this year is how to make our space as inclusive as it possibly can be. Here is a summary of some of the things we have helped to organise:

- **There will be a dedicated breakout space available during all performances this week. The room is located on the second floor, which is accessible via lift or stairs. We have put some signs in the foyer to help you find the room, but front of house staff will also be happy to guide you if you are unsure. In the breakout room, you will find some sensory equipment, which has been kindly supplied by Roots to Branches Autism Network. There are some additional resources which have been supported by the Belgrade's Staff Wellness team.**
- **Friday evening and Saturday afternoon's performances will be captioned. You can access the captioning service by downloading the app and following the instructions. Please be aware that you will need to set this up on your phone or tablet at least 20 minutes before the start of the show.**
- **Our Friday evening performance will be audio described. Headsets are available from the Merch Counter if you would like to access this service.**

Members of the Creative Youth Forum have also curated the pre-show playlist which you can listen to as you enter the auditorium. The songs have been selected based on our initial inspiration of the themes within the story of Nanny of the Maroons.



Creative Youth Forum Members

**Areesha Amjed
Daniela Olanrewaju
Emmie Eden
Georgia Goodall
Harmony Masuko
Kumitha Amarasuriya**

Thank you!

The Creative Youth Forum would like to say thank you to the following people who have made this year's HUBs sharing possible:

Roots to Branches Autism Network, Talking Birds – The Difference Engine, Bruce Tetlow – Audio Descriptor, Leon Phillips, Dan Walsh, Belgrade staff, parents, carers and friends.



FAQs

Welcome to the Belgrade Theatre!
Thank you for coming to see our performance!

What is Creative Youth Forum?

Creative Youth Forum is a group of young producers, and we have helped to create today's event. Today you will see the work that our Theatre HUBs have created this year.

What are Theatre HUBS?

Theatre HUBs are the Belgrade's in-house programme of weekly drama workshops. This week's sharings will feature performances from our 11-14s group, 14-19s group and our brand-new Nuneaton HUB. Groups have been working together since the Autumn term to create the pieces you will see today.

What is Next Steps?

Next Steps is a year-long work-related learning programme run in partnership between the Belgrade Theatre, Open Theatre and students from two local SEND schools.

What is Marooned?

Marooned is the name of this year's Theatre HUBs Festival. This year, our groups have been devising original pieces, inspired by the life of *Nanny of the Maroons*.

The story of *Nanny of the Maroons* is the subject of the Belgrade's upcoming co-created show, and our groups have been creating work to help celebrate.

Who was Nanny?

Queen Nanny of the Maroons was a warrior, healer and protector. The legendary 18th century freedom fighter was feared as a witch by the British. Fighting for freedom over slavery, she became a Jamaican national hero.

What can you expect from our performances?

Our groups have created work inspired by broader themes within *Nanny of the Maroons*. Themes include female leadership, orature, resistance and reimagining the future.



FAQs

What happens in the intervals?

During Friday evening's show, there will be two 10-minute intervals in between the three pieces. On Saturday afternoon, there will be one 10-minute interval in between the two shows.

During the interval, you can go to the toilet, get a drink or snack from the bar, or get some fresh air.

What if I need some time out?

Our dedicated breakout space is in Weston Learning Space, which is located on the second floor. The breakout space is available during and after each performance this week.

What is the Difference Engine?

The Difference Engine is a captioning service which can be accessed using your smartphone or tablet. Instructions are available before the show if you would like to use this service. Captioning is available on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

What is audio description?

Audio description is a service for audience members with visual impairments. Headsets are available before the show if you would like to use this service. Audio description is available on Friday evening.

What happens at the end of the show?

At the end of the show, we welcome to you to stick around to continue the conversation. Our breakout space will also be available after each performance, and we welcome you to leave feedback on our whiteboards.

How do I keep in touch?

Information about upcoming opportunities at the Belgrade, including next year's HUBs programme, can be found at www.belgrade.co.uk/take-part.



Director's Note

KATHERINE ALLEN - 11 - 14s Theatre HUB

Back in September, I think it's safe to say that not many of our 11-14s group had heard of *Nanny of the Maroons*. As we began our research, our group began to find the parallels between Nanny's rebellion and resistance, and their own experiences within the education system.

Three key areas which the group wanted to shine a light on were school uniform rules, free school meals, and school and home life balance. From there, the three strands of the story with *Uniforms and Uprisings* were born.

We are incredibly proud of the 11-14s group. Over the last two years, the group have worked on scripted plays, and so the switch to a devised process was a big gear change. Additionally, the group have had the opportunity to work with a movement director this year, and it's been inspiring to see participants push themselves to learn and develop new skills.

The way that each person has embraced this year's challenge has been wonderful to see, and it is so powerful to see the ideas and voices of every participant represented on stage.

We very much hope you enjoy celebrating the work the young people have created.

Katherine



Uniforms and Uprisings

Created by the 11-14s Theatre HUB

School is supposed to guide us down the right path, but what do you do when school itself is a maze?

It's Izzy's first day at secondary school. She's gone from the glory of Year 6 to big buildings with big kids. Big kids with big voices. Big voices saying things her mum would kill her for saying! The uniform rules seem to make everyone the same, when all Izzy wants is to find out who she really is.

Marcus loves playing football, but surely even Erling Haaland has to stop to eat lunch. When his best friend notices that Marcus hasn't been eating, will he be able to help?

Phoebe is done with homework. She wants to learn something real. But nobody gives you a gold star for understanding your family or caring about the planet before it's too late. We're taught how to memorise facts, but not how to understand ourselves.

Join Izzy, Marcus, and Phoebe as they navigate the maze of school, growing up, and fighting against the system.

Drawing inspiration from Nanny of the Maroons' use of guerilla warfare to overcome adversity, our 11-14s HUB have considered how their characters' knowledge of their environment may help them to create real change.

Cast

Pheobe – Alice Smith
Avery – Cara Locke-Wheaton
Ethan – Daisy Probert
Taylor – Ebony Corden
Robyn – Emmie Eden
Skye – Gauri Barthwal
Jana – Georgia Goodall
Ashley/Mum – Jemima Warwick
Marcus – Jeremiah Dias Farquharson
Kai – Kumitha Amarasuriya

Harper – Lily Clusker
Blake/History Teacher – Lilly-Rose White
Eden – Maddison Hinks
Pheonix – Marima Jatta
Izzy – Meghan Connor
Olly – Oscar Mansbridge
Michael/Headteacher – Oscar McEntee
Sunny – Rishi Bhaskar
Hayden – Sean Clenshaw
John – Sebastian McEntee



Creatives

Co-Director & Writer - Katherine Allen

Co-Director & Movement Director - Francesca Robson

Movement Support - Dan Walsh

Workshop Support - Olugbemi Moronfolu

Lighting Design - David Phillips

Sound Design - Jasraj Sahota

Set & Costume Design - Kritika Agarwal

Stage Manager - Debbie Harlow



11- 14s Theatre HUBs participants



Director's Note

KATHERINE ALLEN - 14 - 19s Theatre HUB

Well, what a difference a year makes. This time last year, many of our 14-19s were performing classical texts as part of our *Shakespeare Remixed* sharing. Fast forward a year, and the group has devised a brand-new theatre show from scratch. It's a testament to the talent and creativity of the group that they have been able to work in a completely different way this year.

During our initial research, our 14-19s group identified key topics which they wanted to weave into their show. These included female leadership, orature, and resistance. It became clear that we weren't going to create a story with a linear storyline, but instead, blend lots of ideas together in, what one of our young people described as, a 'kaleidoscope of vignettes'.

Using a table as our main piece of furniture, the group have been challenged to find dynamic and varying ways to use it to help tell their story. Under the title of *Breaking Bread*, we encourage audiences to think about the topics we explore, and we hope our performance helps to stimulate conversations after the show.

Our 14-19s are a fantastic group. Each person has brought something unique to the process, and it's really exciting to share this brand-new play with our audiences.

Katherine



Breaking Bread (It's Time To Talk)

Created by the 14-19s Theatre HUB

What is a table? A place where we do our revision? Where we gather for long meetings that definitely could have been an email? Where stories are passed down from generation to generation?

Join our 14-19s group as they present a kaleidoscope of vignettes exploring oral traditions, humanity, and our relationships with one another.

This original piece of theatre has been inspired by some of the broader themes within Nanny of the Maroons, including female leadership, orature and resistance.

Cast

Alexis Jones
Areesha Amjed
Bakani Nleya
Clementine Joskey
Harmony Masuko
Isis Hunt
Jayden Darby
Leonardo Somma

Maison-Levi McKenna
Nadia Klys
Roman Kwiatkowska
Rosie Marshall
Ruby Skeggs
Samantha Kapinga Kabasele
Sarah Carter

With thanks to Declan, Ethan, Lois, Hannah, Ray and Sophie who all contributed ideas during our sessions this year.

Creatives

Co-Director & Writer - Katherine Allen
Co-Director & Movement Director - Francesca Robson
Movement Support - Dan Walsh
Workshop Support - Olugbemi Moronfolu
Lighting Design - David Phillips
Sound Design - Jasraj Sahota
Set & Costume Design - Kritika Agarwal
Stage Manager - Debbie Harlow





14-19s Theatre HUBs participants



Director's Note

JACOB WHITEHORN - Nuneaton Theatre HUB

In September of 2025 I arrived at Etone College unsure of what this project might hold but invigorated by the possibilities of the creative journey we as a group would go on. I was prepared for it to be a very different process to ones I may be used to but what I didn't foresee was how much joy and creativity I would take from the young people involved.

I have been constantly impressed by the groups' passion, commitment and care for each other. Their willingness to dive headfirst into creating stories in unconventional ways about personal and at times uncomfortable realities of what our futures hold has been remarkable. The growth I have observed in them as performers, creative thinkers and as individuals within an ensemble has been a source of great pride and a reminder of the importance that we must place on creating space for young people to express themselves.

Our story has been shaped by the groups own conversations and reflections on the world and the power of their imagination sits at the heart of the work. Hope's journey is a reminder to all of us to nurture imagination and most of all, dare to dream.

Jacob



Hope...

Created by the Nuneaton Theatre HUB

Meet Hope. She is an ordinary girl in an ordinary place. Normal in every way. Apart from one...

When Hope is forced to confront what her future, and the future of her generation looks like, she decides to take matters into her own hands. What follows is a journey that she believes has the potential to change the world.

This production performed and created by young people from Etone College, Nuneaton uses movement, sound and the performers own words to remind us of the power of imagination and the importance of fighting for your future.

Cast

Hope 1 - Mikaela Abbas	Ensemble - Kaden McGrath
Hope 2 - Paige Price	Ensemble - Jessica Parnell
Hope 3 - Anielă Dascalescu	Ensemble - Emilee Robinson-Jones
Ensemble - Paige Cooke	Ensemble - Eloise Sharkey
Mr Jenkins & Ensemble - Dexter Hall	Ensemble - Triniti Smith
Ensemble - Grace Keen	Reporter & Ensemble - Molly Wise
Ensemble - Cara Mawson	Prime Minister & Ensemble - Eleanor Woodward

Creatives

Director - Jacob Whitehorn
Co-Directors - Sarah Hailstones and Georgie Taylor
Lighting Design - David Phillips
Sound design - Jasraj Sahota
Set and Costume Design - Kritika Agarwal
Stage Manager - Debbie Harlow

Thanks to Sharon Leftwich-Lloyd, Etone College, Dauntless Arts



Director's Note

KATHERINE ALLEN - *Next Steps*

John and I love running Next Steps. Each session is a whirlwind of fun, laughter and creativity. Every Thursday, the students come out of their school settings, and travel to the Belgrade. The time we have spent together has allowed the group not only to develop performance skills, but also to build confidence and a greater sense of independence.

This year, the group chose to create a film. Working with professional filmmakers, Sean and Jay, the group have made their very own superhero adventure.

We really hope you enjoy celebrating the students' wonderful work with us.

Katherine



The Anxiety Monster

A short film created by Next Steps

We all have an anxiety monster. That horrible thing that sits on our shoulder and causes us to worry.

Follow Katie as she draws her classmates in her sketchbook, and as they teach her how to defeat her anxiety monster.

Our Next Steps group have been inspired by Nanny's supposed supernatural powers and have considered how we can acquire real-life superpowers in order to overcome challenges.

Next Steps is a weekly, term-time, learning programme run in partnership with Open Theatre and students from Riverbank Academy and Baginton Fields Academy.

Cast

Lucinda - Katie
Idrees - Brendan
Maurice - Dedji
Elise - Elle
Casadie-Rae - Melody

Lachlan - Michael
Joseph - Nate
Éliézer - Peter
Lukan - Mr Clarke
Matt - Mr Foster

Creatives

Filmmakers - Sean Bould and
Jay Langdell
For The Belgrade Theatre -
Katherine Allen
For Open Theatre - John Bennell, Lukan
Smith and Matt Moore

With thanks to Sharon, Lisa, Ciara, staff from Riverbank Academy, Baginton Fields Academy, Open Theatre and Belgrade Theatre.



Next Steps Participants





Marooned

Thanks

I would like to thank all participants for their dedication and hard work during this project. We have welcomed lots of new people to our groups this year, as well as welcoming back plenty of familiar faces. We hope you all have a brilliant time on stage this week.

I would also like to thank Frankie, Olugbemi and Dan for their incredible passion, talent and support throughout the process this year.

Katherine

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