# RACULA Friday, October 28, 2011 Orpheum.

## Ballet

balletnebraska.org



Ballet Nebraska 2011-12, from left front: Kristin Goeringer, Erin Alarcón, Andrea Mason; Matthew Carter, Angela Zolczynski, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Kelsey Schwenker, Denis Vezetiu; Jenna Strachota, Bret Samson, Natasha Grimm, Sasha York, Erika Overturff, Claire Goodwillie, Teresa Coulter. Not pictured: Mandy Lock.

#### About Ballet Nebraska

Ballet Nebraska is the state's professional dance company — the only arts organization of its kind in the region. Performing at home and on tour, its mission is to enrich Nebraska and Iowa communities through programs of the highest quality: professional dance performances, educational programs, and community outreach. Ballet Nebraska's talented professional dancers hail from around the nation and abroad, making Omaha their home to share the excitement of dance with others. As expressive artists, powerful athletes, and skilled teachers, they play a key role in the cultural vitality of the region.



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#### Director's Notes

Dear Friends -

Welcome to *DRACULA* and the opening of Ballet Nebraska's second season! We enjoyed an incredible debut season last year and would like to thank each and every one of you that has been a part of the magic. We love movement and music and creativity and stories and people. Thank you for joining us this evening for what you are sure to find is a thrilling, haunting and beautiful performance.

Winthrop Corey has created a thought-provoking ballet in his retelling of Bram Stoker's classic novel. As the story of *DRACULA* unfolds, we begin to see the man behind the monster, we explore both darkness and love.

In December, Ballet Nebraska will debut our brand new version of *THE NUTCRACKER* to our Omaha-area audiences. Featuring exciting choreography and exquisite costumes, *THE NUTCRACKER* will transport you into the enchanting world of a child's beautiful dreams.

A hair-raising Rat Queen, the angelic sounds of the Opera Omaha Children's Chorus, a visit to the North Pole... these are just a few of the surprises that await. We hope that Ballet Nebraska's *NUTCRACKER* will become a favorite holiday tradition in your family!

Performances will take place at the Iowa Western Arts Center on December 2, and the Omaha Music Hall on December 4. Additionally, join us for a lovely afternoon on November 27 as the Ballet Nebraska Guild hosts a **Nutcracker Tea Party** at the historic Joslyn Castle.

This spring, Ballet Nebraska is thrilled to once again be partnering with the Joslyn Art Museum during our *MOMENTUM* production. The performance will feature a dramatic new ballet *Cleopatra* in celebration of the Joslyn's touring exhibition *To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures from* 



Ballet Nebraska gratefully acknowledges the support of The Iowa West Foundation.

Headquartered in Council Bluffs, the Foundation assists nonprofit organizations and government entities with funding for area projects. Funding for the Foundation's grants comes from investment earnings and the Iowa West Racing Association (IWRA), which receives contracted fees from casino operators – Ameristar and Harrah's. IWRA distributes funds to the Foundation, which is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that makes grants in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska.

For information about the Iowa West Foundation, visit its website at www.iowawestfoundation.org *the Brooklyn Museum* (February 11- June 10, 2012).

Also on the roster is *DanceSport*. Created by nationally-renowned choreographer and showman Harrison McEldowney, *DanceSport* is a riotously witty look at the intersection between competitive sports and professional dance, complete with hilarious play-by-play commentary!

**MOMENTUM** will also highlight new works by Matthew Carter and Monique Haley. Don't miss this opportunity to see our dancers soar as they celebrate the many facets of dance in this diverse program.

And now, Transylvania awaits. If you can avoid becoming Dracula's next victim, we look forward to seeing you at our next performance!

Best wishes.



#### **Artistic Staff**

Erika Overturff, Founder and Artistic Director Matthew Carter, Ballet Master

#### Company Artists

Erin Alarcón Natasha Grimm Bret Samson Sasha York Matthew Carter
Alberto Liberatoscioli
Kelsey Schwenker

Claire Goodwillie Erika Overturff Denis Vezetiu Angela Zolczynski

#### **Apprentices**

Teresa Coulter

Mandy Lock

Andrea Mason

Kristin Goeringer, Company Guest Jenna Strachota, Trainee

#### **Production Staff**

Stagehand Services ......Provided by IATSE Local 42

#### Acknowledgements

Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital is the official orthopaedic hospital and physical therapy provider for Ballet Nebraska.

Special thanks to Tom Cox and Clyde Overturff.

## Ballet Nebraska presents DRACULA

#### Sponsored by John and Gayla Thal

Omaha's Orpheum Theater, October 28, 2011

Choreography......Winthrop Corey

Music	Liszt, Strauss, Brahms, Kilar, Glass, Barry, Goldenthal
Costume Design	Winthrop Corey, Marian Blake
Set Design and Construction	Ron Barrett, Homer McClure
Lighting Design	Jerry Wolderski of Theatrical Media Services
Music Editing	Carl Belk
ACT I	
Dracula	Sasha York
Mina	Natasha Grimm
Lucy	Erika Overturff
Jonathan	Matthew Carter
Three Brides	Erin Alarcón, Claire Goodwillie, Kelsey Schwenker
Ballroom Guests	Anna Ballard, Hannah Birdwell, Molly Bouc, Katie Hickey, Caitlin Ricker, Hanna Ritland, Miranda Serna, Kaitlyn Ulmer, Carolyn Warnke and Joe Dewey, Chad McVicker, John Ritland, Denis Vezetiu, Jeremy E. Waymire

#### ACT II

Funeral	Anna Ballard, Caitlin Ricker, Kaitlyn Ulmer, Carolyn Warnke
	and
	Joe Dewey, Steve Hutchinson, Alberto Liberatoscioli,
	Chad McVicker, Steve Nohrenberg, John Ritland,
	Denis Vezetiu, Jeremy E. Waymire
Brides	Hannah Birdwell, Teresa Coulter, Kristin Goeringer,

Kristin Goeringer, Mandy Lock, Bret Samson,

Kelsey Schwenker, Jenna Strachota

Katie Hickey, Madeline Koesters, Mandy Lock, Andrea Mason, Emily Reiff, Bret Samson, Jenna Strachota, Lauren Uhlig, Angela Zolczynski

Presented with the Support of:



Gypsy Couple......Angela Zolczynski, Alberto Liberatoscioli
Gypsies.....Erin Alarcón, Teresa Coulter, Claire Goodwillie,



#### The Story of Dracula

Dracula, for centuries a victim, a man changed by circumstances far beyond comprehension into a sinister character of pride, cruelty and cunning, aristocratic arrogance and a brooding sense of grievance and entitlement.

The character of Dracula is a brilliant creation, and no other setting can match the disquieting, terrifying magnificence of Transylvania, where the wolves howl at night, bats wing low and heavy doors slam shut. These two features, character and setting, are Bram Stoker's enduring contribution to the vampire tale. In a stroke of genius, Stoker took a person who really lived in the 15th century (Prince Vlad II) and a real place (Transylvania, in what is now western Romania) and fused them with folklore. The result is a "sinister character of disquieting force," and a setting that is wonderfully eerie and remote.

#### Act I, Scene I: The Castle

Jonathan Harker travels from London to Transylvania and the castle of Count Dracula with papers that must be signed to complete real estate dealings. In the course of his visit, he becomes an intended victim and is drugged by Count Dracula. Three of Dracula's brides, themselves vampires, taunt him until Dracula reappears and sends them away. Dracula then, unsuccessfully, tries to bite his victim, thus turning him into a vampire, but Jonathan escapes and flees back to London to his fiancée, Mina.

#### Act I, Scene II: A Masquerade Ball

A Masquerade Ball is the setting for Jonathan's and Mina's wedding reception, where guests in fanciful costumes waltz to the familiar strains of Strauss, and a band of Gypsies comes to entertain. As guests arrive, so does a mysterious guest dressed in black: Count Dracula. As it is a masked ball, his identity is unknown. He first encounters Lucy, Mina's favorite friend, and is taken with her extraordinary beauty and gaiety. As they begin to dance, his gaze happens to fall upon Mina, and he is struck by her purity and grace. Unable to get close to her, he turns his attention back to Lucy. After the guests have left the ball, Lucy returns to retrieve her mask, and happens upon Dracula. He weaves upon her his spell that ends with a bite, leaving her as if dead. Mina and Jonathan return to find her lying on the ballroom floor.

#### Act II, Scene I: A Funeral Procession

Led by Mina and Jonathan, a funeral procession is taking Lucy to her final resting place. Waiting for them is Count Dracula, who has come to claim his new bride. Shrinking back in horror, the men are unable to stop him from taking the body of Lucy. They vow to catch him, saving Lucy, and travel after him to his castle in Translyvania.

#### Act II, Scene II: The Castle

Count Dracula has brought Lucy to the castle, where she is surrounded by his other brides and is slowly brought to life as a vampire. Hearing the approaching band of men, the brides and Dracula vanish. Jonathan, along with his men, prepares to search the castle for Dracula and leaves Mina alone. Lucy appears and begins to initiate Mina, who is intended to become Dracula's next bride. When finally Dracula and Mina meet, he realizes his love for her. His natural instincts are to make her his bride, but because of his true love he is unable to. Jonathan, accompanied by his men, storms into the room in an attempt to save her.

— Program Notes by Winthrop Corey

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#### About: Ballet Nebraska II

Joining the Ballet Nebraska professional company for this production are members of Ballet Nebraska II. BN II is comprised of a select group of highly motivated pre-professional dancers training for future professional careers or advanced dance studies at the university level. BN II members are selected by audition and gain valuable exposure to life in a professional ballet company, including training, rehearsal, and performance opportunities.

## About: Ballet Nebraska/Motion41 Repertory Ensemble

A collaboration between Motion41 Dance and Ballet Nebraska, the Repertory Ensemble is a performing group comprised of talented and enthusiastic dancers from around the community. Ballet Nebraska's participation in this program is part of the broad range of outreach services it offers to schools, dance

Ballet Nebraska II, from left front: Caitlin Ricker, Hanna Ritland, Allison Buell, Hannah Birdwell, Emily Reiff, Jenna Strachota, Katie Hickey, Madeline Koesters, Carolyn Warnke, Miranda Serna, Kaitlyn Ulmer, Anna Ballard, Naomi Holkeboer, Molly Bouc. Not pictured: Rachel Dowd, Lauren Uhlig.

studios, arts presenters, and other community organizations.

Visit balletnebraska.org/participate/audition for information about auditioning for student ensembles and community roles in Ballet Nebraska productions.



### **Guest Choreographer**

Winthrop Corey is artistic director of Mobile Ballet Company, and a summer faculty member for both Joffrey Ballet School in New York and American Ballet Theatre. A former principal dancer with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada, he is especially well known for his classical roles in *The Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Giselle*, and *Cinderella*, and for dancing opposite Rudolph Nureyev in Jose Limon's classic modern-dance work *The Moor's Pavane*.



Mr. Corey has been a four-time coach for the New York International Ballet
Competition, and a guest teacher at institutions throughout the United States, Canada, and
Portugal. He has staged and choreographed full-length productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*,
Sleeping Beauty, Romeo & Juliet, Cinderella, and Swan Lake as well as two original ballets, Dracula
and A Streetcar Named Desire.

As a costume designer, Mr. Corey is noted for his designs for *Swan Lake, Cinderella, The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker,* and *Romeo & Juliet*. His original design and construction of the classical tutu has gained him national attention.



NEBRASKA CULTURAL The Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, has supported this program through its matching grants program funded by the Nebraska Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Visit **www.nebraskaartscouncil.org** for information on how the Nebraska Arts Council can assist your organization, or how you can support the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.



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#### Ballet Nebraska Artistic Staff

#### Erika Overturff

Artistic Director & Founder (Artist Sponsor: Midlands Choice)



Erika Overturff is the founder and artistic director of Ballet Nebraska. Erika began her training in Iowa at the Academy of Ballet, continuing her studies at summer programs including North Carolina School of the Arts, American Ballet Theater, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, and the Kirov Academy. Erika earned her BFA in ballet performance and teaching from the University of Utah, which she attended on a full scholarship. She graduated cum laude in just three years and was chosen outstanding senior by the ballet department faculty.

Erika went on to dance with Montgomery Ballet, Alabama Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet. She has performed principal and soloist roles in a wide range of classical and contemporary repertoire. Erika has also been a faculty member and guest teacher for schools throughout the United States.

As a choreographer, Erika has received critical praise for her work. She served as répétitrice for Montgomery Ballet and resident choreographer for Omaha Theater Ballet. As part of Ballet Nebraska's collaboration with Joslyn Art Museum for *Momentum*, she recently choreographed the ballet *Connemara* and is creating a new ballet *Cleopatra*. Additionally, Erika created Ballet Nebraska's lively and entertaining new version of the holiday favorite *The Nutcracker*, which will debut to Omaha-area audiences this December.

#### **Matthew Carter**

Ballet Master (Artist Sponsor: John & Gayla Thal)



Matthew Carter began his training with Sharon Filone at the Lake Erie Ballet School and Sandra Barnett at Little's Dance Studio. He went on to study on scholarship at North Carolina School of the Arts, Miami City Ballet School, and the Chautauqua Festival Dancers. Matthew has danced professionally with Ohio Ballet, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Lake Erie Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet. He has also performed as a Guest Artist with Hawaii Ballet Theatre, Neglia Ballet Artists, and Ballet Tucson. Matthew has been choreographing since the age of 16 and has premiered works with numerous schools, professional companies, and theaters. He is the co-director of

Motion41 Dance in Omaha and continues to serve as a guest teacher for schools throughout the country. Matthew returns for his second season at Ballet Nebraska as ballet master.



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## **Erin Alarcón**Company Dancer



A native of New Jersey, Erin Alarcón received her dance training under Christine Taylor and Luba Gulyaeva of New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet, where she performed a number of classic roles and contemporary works. Erin earned her Bachelor of Arts in dance performance at Mercyhurst College under the direction of Tauna Hunter. During the summers, she studied with Eglevsky Ballet and The Joffrey Ballet. She has worked with a number of guest artists including Laura Alonso, Bruce Marks, Vivi Flindt, and Bill Evans. Erin has also studied abroad with Valerie Valentine of

the Dutch National Ballet. Erin previously danced professionally with SoMar Dance Works and Ballet Concerto. She performed leading roles in both *Giselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty,* as well as solo roles in Ballet Nebraska's *Momentum* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Erin is returning for her second season with Ballet Nebraska.

#### Claire Goodwillie

Company Dancer



Claire Goodwillie began her ballet training at Omaha Theater Ballet School of Dance. She spent summers training with the renowned Pacific Northwest Ballet and Ballet Austin. She has also trained in Banff, Canada. Claire appeared in numerous Omaha Theater Ballet productions as both a student and apprentice, including *The Sleeping Beauty, The Firebird* and *Coppélia*. Her favorite roles include young Clara in *The Orpheum Nutcracker*, Evil Rat Queen in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker*, as well as Helena in Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Claire was featured

in the role of Sugar Plum Fairy in a Christmas production at Omaha Theater Company. She has also performed with Opera Omaha and the Omaha Symphony. Claire is a founding member returning for her second season at Ballet Nebraska.

#### Natasha Grimm

Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: John Ritland & Greta Vaught)



Natasha Grimm began her ballet training at Omaha Theater Ballet School of Dance. She also received a scholarship to Kansas City Ballet, and toured with Manhattan Dance. Additionally, Natasha danced in productions with the Omaha Symphony and Opera Omaha. Natasha began her professional career at Omaha Theater Ballet, where she danced first as an apprentice and later as a company member for three seasons. She was dubbed by Examiner.com as "one of the most lithe and physically appealing dancers to grace the stage" in her role of Coral

Snake in Omaha Theater Ballet's final production, *The Rainforest*. A founding member of Ballet Nebraska, Natasha has performed leading roles, including Sugar Plum Fairy in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker* and Titania in Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Natasha returns for her second season with Ballet Nebraska.

#### Alberto Liberatoscioli

Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: Clyde & Deborah Overturff)



Originally from Italy, Alberto Liberatoscioli received his ballet training in the Vaganova and Balanchine styles, also studying modern dance. He was a member of National Theater in Brno, Czech Republic and Slovak National Ballet where he performed in classical repertory including *Le Corsaire*, *La Bayadère* and *Swan Lake*, as well as neoclassical works and opera premieres. Alberto also danced with Columbia Classical Ballet in South Carolina, and later Omaha Theater Ballet. He

appeared as a guest artist at Boulder Ballet, Ballet Fantastique and Lincoln Midwest Ballet dancing lead roles in *The Nutcracker, The Sleeping Beauty* and as Lando in *As You Like It.* Alberto received his teaching certification from American Ballet Theater in New York City and has taught master classes in Rome. He has also taught dance to students in Omaha and Lincoln. Alberto holds a law degree and a masters in Human Resources. He recently won first prize in the 2010 Una Manciata di Lettere literature contest in Taranto, Italy for his book *Ombre alla Ribalta*. Most recently, Alberto performed solo roles in *Momentum, The Nutcracker* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Ballet Nebraska, where he is returning for his second season.

#### **Bret Samson**

Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: Dr. James Liu & Rebecca Liu-Huang)



Bret Samson began her dance training at Lake Shore Dance with Amy Aichele and Gwen Agee in Saukville, Wisconsin. She continued training with Melissa Anderson and Rafael Delgado in Milwaukee, where she later became a founding member of their performance group. Bret continued her training at Steps on Broadway in New York City. Bret has performed in numerous ballets by accomplished choreographers, dancing roles in Harrison McEldowney's Swing, Swing, Swing!,

Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and in works by Kennet Oberly and Jean-Paul Commélin. Bret has performed with Milwaukee Ballet II, Madison Ballet and Omaha Theater Ballet. A founding member of Ballet Nebraska, Bret returns for her second season.

#### **Kelsey Schwenker** *Company Dancer*



Boulder, Colorado native Kelsey Schwenker began her classical ballet training with Ballet Nouveau Colorado, where she was a five-year member of its student company directed by Julia Wilkinson Manley. She has attended summer intensives with Kansas City Ballet, Burklyn Ballet Theatre, Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop and Paul Taylor Dance Company. Kelsey received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in ballet performance, graduating summa cum laude from the University of Oklahoma, where she trained with Mary Margaret Holt, Donn Edwards, Steve Brule and Jeremy

Lindberg. Kelsey has performed in notable works including *Rodeo, Divertimento No. 5, The Firebird, Afternoon of a Faun* and *Les Biches.* Kelsey returns for her second season with Ballet Nebraska.

## **Denis Vezetiu**Company Dancer



Born in Moldova in Eastern Europe, Denis Vezetiu received his professional training at the Academy of Ballet of Moldova. He went on to dance with a number of prestigious companies. He danced as a soloist with the National Opera of Bucharest and the National Theatre of Moldova. As a dancer with Chisinau National Theatre, Denis toured extensively in Europe and the United States. His varied repertoire includes *The Sleeping Beauty, Coppélia, Swan Lake, The Nutcracker*,

*Le Corsaire* and *La Bayadère*. Since 2008, Denis served as a principal dancer with Manassas Ballet in Virginia, performing leading roles in a variety of classical and original ballets. This is his first season with Ballet Nebraska.

#### Sasha York

Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: OrthoWest)



Originally from Chelyabinsk, Russia, Sasha York trained at Paavola School of Dance in Flint, Michigan. He later returned to Russia, where he trained with Urey Urivich. Sasha was accepted into the pre-professional program at Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, where he performed in company productions of *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter Pan*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. He has worked with many well-known choreographers such as Harrison McEldowney, Viktor Plotnikov and Septime Webre. Sasha performed the lead role in McEldowney's *Swing*, *Swing*, *Swing*, *Swing*, *Swing*, Snow

King in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker*, and Oberon in Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He previously danced for two seasons at Omaha Theater Ballet. Sasha joined Ballet Nebraska in 2010 as a founding member and returns for his second season.

#### Angela Zolczynski

Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: J. Michael Hemmer)



A native of Rapid City, South Dakota, Angela Zolczynski is a graduate of the prestigious Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, Massachusetts. She received her ballet training from Michael Owen of American Ballet Theater. Angela performed with Omaha Theater Ballet for six seasons, dancing in numerous works including *The Firebird, The Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet* and *Coppélia*. Angela has performed many soloist roles, including her recent portrayal of Hermia in Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A dedicated instructor,

Angela has taught ballet, jazz, and tap in Omaha for seven years, and she also currently leads youth rehearsals for Repertory Ensemble. Angela is a founding member of Ballet Nebraska returning for her second season.

## Teresa Coulter *Apprentice*



Teresa began her dance training at Mary Lorraine's Dance Center in Omaha. She also trained at Omaha Academy of Ballet and Motion41 Dance. Teresa spent summers training with Kansas City Ballet, the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts, and Kaatsbaan International Dance in Tivoli, New York. Teresa was a founding member of Ballet Nebraska II in the Company's debut season. She has danced company roles as Miss May in the Calendar Girls scene in Harrison

McEldowney's *Swing, Swing, Swing!* and in the flower corps during Waltz of the Flowers in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker*. Teresa joins Ballet Nebraska this season as a first-year apprentice.

## Mandy Lock Apprentice



Mandy is a recent graduate of the University of Utah where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in ballet performance. She began her training in classical ballet and acro-gymnastics in her home state of Missouri. She was a member of resident performing companies Utah Ballet and Character Dance Ensemble. Mandy also appeared professionally as a guest artist with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet in 2008. Mandy has toured internationally in Japan and Costa Rica, as well as extensively throughout the state of Utah. She has performed in a range of classical repertory

including, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *La Bayadère*, *Giselle* and *The Firebird*, as well as numerous contemporary works. Mandy joins Ballet Nebraska this season as an apprentice.

#### Andrea Mason

**Apprentice** 



Chesterfield, Missouri native Andrea received her classical ballet training at St. Louis Ballet School with Gen Horiuchi and Ellen Costanza. She performed as a student apprentice in numerous roles in *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker* with St. Louis Ballet. Andrea received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance, with a dual emphasis in ballet and modern from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance in May 2011. Andrea appeared in Anthony Tudor's *Dark Elegies*, Bernard Gaddis's *Deitas* as a principal, as well as *Les Petits* 

Riens by Gen Horiuchi, Shostakovich Jazz Suite by Ron Tice, and Untitled by Thaddeus Davis. During summers, she studied with Nashville Ballet, Carolina Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Ballet Chicago and St. Louis Ballet. Andrea appeared professionally in 2010 as guest artist for Dimensions Dance Theater as Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker. She also taught advanced classical ballet for two years at Creative Arts Academy. This is Andrea's first year as an apprentice with Ballet Nebraska.



Kristin Goeringer Company Guest



Jenna Strachota Trainee



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