



GIRL BEHIND THE CAMERA PRODUCTIONS IS  
PROUD TO PRESENT

THE FILMS OF THE 2007 NEW YORK AIDS FILM FESTIVAL  
5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FILMS OF THE 2007 NY AIDS FILM FESTIVAL  
OPENING NIGHT – NOV 29<sup>th</sup> UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
SATURDAY DEC 1 & 2<sup>ND</sup> 2007 – WORLD AIDS DAY SCREENINGS  
PRESENTED BY -NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
TICKETS: FREE  
REFRESHMENTS: FREE

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King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center  
53 Washington Square South

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Contact:  
[press@newyorkaidsfilmfestival.org](mailto:press@newyorkaidsfilmfestival.org)  
212 591 1434

OPENING NIGHT –NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 2007  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
INVITE ONLY!!!



National Geographic & Youth AIDS  
Indias Hidden Plague  
Starring Ashley Judd  
( FEATURE PRESENTATION)

Mirabai Films  
Mira Nair – AIDS Jaago ( Migration)  
( SHORT FILM)

Awards will be presented to:  
Christiane Amanpour ( CNN), Mira Nair ( MIRABAI FILMS),  
Paolo Monaci ( Golden Graal), Kate Roberts ( Youth AIDS)  
Actor/Activist -Gloria Reuben

Celebrity and VIP Presenters including: actor Josh Lucas, Steve Villano (cable

# SATURDAY DECEMBER 1st 2007 PROGRAM

## WORLD AIDS DAY

9:30 – 10:45am

MTV STAYING ALIVE- 48 FEST KENYA

DOC & SHORTS

48 Fest took place on 3rd of July in the robust city of Nairobi in Kenya at the first ever Women's Summit on Leadership on HIV and AIDS. 30 young people who attended the summit were given the opportunity to produce these short films. How did it all work? Participants had two days to produce their films from scratch. The brief was to look at the many challenges of HIV and AIDS, but with a female slant. However, the films aren't just targeted at women; in fact everyone might learn something. A panel of expert judges, including acclaimed director Bryan Barber gave their opinions on all six films, and chose an overall winner. Considering all films were shot on zero budget, they really are an amazing feat.

Launched in 1998, Staying Alive is a multimedia global HIV and AIDS prevention campaign that challenges stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS as well as empowers young people to protect themselves from infection. The Emmy award-winning campaign consists of documentaries, public service announcements, youth forums and multi-lingual Web content. Staying Alive provides all of its television programming rights-free and at no cost to other broadcasters globally to get crucial prevention messages out to the widest possible audience. The Staying Alive campaign is a partnership between MTV Networks International, Family Health International, the Kaiser Family Foundation, UNAIDS, UNFPA. Staying Alive has also partnered with, SIDA, CIDA, Unicef, the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Creative Review among others. More information about Staying Alive can be found at [www.staying-alive.org](http://www.staying-alive.org). MTV Networks International is also an active member of both the United Nations-supported Global Media AIDS Initiative (GMAI) and the Global Business Coalition on HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

11 am – 12pm

NYAFF TRAILER ( 10 minutes)

GMHC HEROES & HONORS

(6:23 minutes)

Directed By Michael Eldridge

GMHC AT 25 is a short documentary that takes the viewer through the harrowing first years of the AIDS/HIV crisis- the start of GMHC- and how we need to keep fighting AIDS/HIV today.

The story is told exclusively through first-person interviews of the men and women who have fought this pandemic for the last 25 years- and their voices weave both a hopeful and haunting look at this crisis.

ABOUT FACE

(5:40 minutes)

Directed By Enrique Menendez

Enrique is introduced in his professional theatrical roles as a GI from the Vietnam War, sailor from WWII, and a student during the French revolution. We learn how he became infected. Through images of one of Enrique' s HIV pharmaceutical ads, the March on Washington, and the AIDS quilt, we learn how these battles deeply affect him. Upon HIV infection, we see how the virus has affected his body. Next, Enrique reminisces about his 40<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> birthday parties and how his medications take their toll. His desire to control is manifested in addiction.

HOW DO I LOOK

(10 minutes)

Directed By Wolf Busch.

The Harlem "Ball" community is influential in fashion, music, runway and dance worldwide and inspired superstar Madonna, Imani, Marc Jacobs and RuPaul. Unfortunately they are hit hardest by the AIDS epidemic to this date, because of their lifestyles and by living on the edge. They lost their leadership to the AIDS epidemic and they are fighting an uphill battle for artistic and social empowerment. Featured in the 10 minute HIV excerpt from the How Do I Look documentary are Octavia St. Laurent, Kevin Omni, Jose & Carmen Xtravaganza, Harmonica Sunbeam, Luna Khan, Kevin Aviance and Marcel Christian.

QUESTION & ANSWER TO FOLLOW WITH :

MICHAEL ELDRIDGE, ENRIQUE MENENDEZ & WOLF BUSCH

12:30 – 2:30pm

NYAFF TRAILER ( 10 minutes)

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OPENING SHORTS MHRA: PRODUCERS **Francine Shuchat Shaw and Mary Ann Chiasson**, Sabina Hirshfield

HIV IS STILL A BIG DEAL: THE TEST  
(10 minutes)

The Test (2007) is Episode 2 of the dramatic series HIV Big Deal, an online HIV prevention project for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.. In Episode 1, Josh was drunk and may have had unprotected sex with an HIV positive man. Episode 2 is about Josh' s continuing sexual activities with multiple partners, during which he is not careful about safer sex practices. He finally decides to get an HIV test, after several failed attempts, with the expectation that he is negative and the plan to practice safer sex from that point on. One of his friends goes with him to a clinic and, after meeting with an HIV test counselor, Josh gets tested. This situation addresses the importance of regular HIV testing among men at high risk for transmission, how men make the decision to be tested, and their experience of being tested.

TALKING ABOUT HIV  
( 6 minutes)

Talking About HIV has been created from director Todd Ahlberg' s (2005) documentary film, Meth. In Meth, current and past methamphetamine-using gay men share their experiences about the drug' s effect on their lives, relating to meeting sexpartners, HIV disclosure, HIV infection, condom use, and the negative impact of substance use on health, family life, employment, and housing. We have developed a 5-minute documentary from the video footage, which focuses on HIV disclosure, references to HIV testing, and condom use. This video will be used for an online intervention.

DEC AIDS  
(47 minutes)

Ryan Lapidus CREATIVE PRODUCER, STORY EDITOR

In the early 80's, HIV/AIDS was labeled as 'the gay plague', quickly earning a chilling reputation as an unstoppable killer. Marginalized by many in mainstream society, the gay community faced a choice: unite or suffer alone. This is the story of one of those unifying forces – a fashion fundraiser. It's flourished into something much more powerful that has changed the political landscape, and how we see ourselves. DecAIDS: Anything is Possible is an uplifting HD video documentary offering up one community's solution for hope in the global fight against AIDS. Each year, over 1,000 volunteers, including the fashion community itself, prepare for Canada's largest single-day AIDS fundraiser, Fashion Cares. For twenty years, Phillip Ing has produced this fashion show extravaganza, bringing global talent to its Toronto stage. In this, his final year, Ing reflects on the event's contribution towards the cause while simultaneously giving voice to its critics. Meanwhile, two individuals, HIV-positive for two decades, prepare to attend the event which has directly touched their own lives in deeply personal ways.

QUESTION & ANSWER WITH RYAN LAPIDUS , MARY CHIASSON &  
Sabina Hirshfield, **Francine Shuchat Shaw**

3:00 – 4:00pm

NYAFF TRAILER ( 10 minutes)  
SCENARIOS USA

REFLECTIONS (20 minutes)  
ME, MYSELF & I (5 minutes)  
THE CHOICES WE MAKE (5 minutes)

Reflections, made in partnership with the Rap-It-Up campaign, a partnership of BET and Kaiser Family Foundation -(Maywood, IL) Three best friends learn to take the risk of HIV/AIDS seriously as they navigate romantic relationships. Written by Keyana Ray from Maywood, Illinois. Directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood (Love and Basketball), shot by Johnny Jensen (Rosewood) and produced by Billy Higgins (Honey).

The Choices We Make - (Brooklyn, New York)  
Young lovers struggle to make the right decision about becoming parents. Written by Tiara Bennett from Brooklyn, NY. Directed by Alison Maclean (Jesus' Son, "The Tudors"), shot by Luke Geissbuhler (Borat) and produced by Rob York.

Me, Myself and I - (Brownsville, TX)  
A high school girl learns to make choices for herself regardless of what others think. Written by Caroline Boon from Brownsville, Texas. Directed by Eva Vives (Raising Victor Vargas), shot by Lee Daniel (Fast Food Nation, Before Sunrise) and produced by Anish Savjani (nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Old Joy and the upcoming I' ll Come Running).

Scenarios USA is a non-profit organization that uses writing and filmmaking to foster youth leadership, advocacy and self-expression in teens. Scenarios USA asks young people to write about the issues that shape their lives for the annual "What's the REAL DEAL?" writing contest and thousands have responded with their raw and revealing insights. Youths, aged 12-22 address issues such as peer pressure, body image, pregnancy scares, HIV/AIDS, self-esteem and commitment by writing stories for the annual ' What's the REAL DEAL?' writing contest. Contest winners are partnered with professional filmmakers and crew to turn their stories into high-quality short films in their hometowns. Scenarios USA runs its programs in communities where youth have little to no access to the film industry. Scenarios films' youth-writers include students from all walks of life. These aspiring filmmakers have created films that represent their communities, ones that are currently underrepresented in mainstream media. Scenarios USA supports its young filmmakers as they go on to use their films to organize communities around social justice issues. We advocate freedom of expression through the art of independent media in the larger struggle for social justice and equality.

Q & A with SCENARIOS USA TBD

4: 15pm – 6:00pm

## ON THE EDGE

Episodes on AIDS in the UKRAINE

105 Minutes

Directed by Karsten Hein

Ukraine is suffering the highest AIDS rate in Europe. "On the Edge. Six Episodes on AIDS in Ukraine" offers an analysis of the social causes of the epidemic as well as its social consequences. The film shows the lives of drug users, who constitute about one per cent of the total population. It also shows the production of drugs, the drug trade and the related corruption. Destroyed families, in which a whole generation past away because of AIDS due to drug misuse are being visited. What remains are old people and infants. The film shows orphans and children in the TB hospital, as well as the lack of physicians that work on poverty-related diseases. A strong focus lies on the dismal conditions in the labour camps, where approx. 200,000 people live and a high number of people get infected with HIV – through sharing syringes or experiencing sexual violence. People who try to do something against these terrible conditions, even at the most atrocious places where one would least expect, are shown. It turns out that in almost all cases the concerned people are women.

# SUNDAY DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007 PROGRAM

10:50 – 11:50AM

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION GOLDEN GRAAL & FORUM DI GIOVANNI  
AIDS FILM FESTIVAL & MUSEUM INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR PAOLO  
MONACI COMES TO THE NYAFF WITH YOUTH VIP GIANLUCA MELILLO.**



NYAFF TRAILER ( 10 minutes)

ROSE NEL DESERTO ( 7 minutes)

Rose nel deserto (rose in the desert) is a documentary film which, tersely and dynamically, using the unfiltered language typical of war reporting, recounts the story of Rose and her extraordinary human adventure.

Rose Busyngye is a Ugandan nurse, founder of Meeting Point International in Kampala, a non-governmental organisation dedicated to offering assistance to AIDS sufferers (both hospital- and home-based care) and to looking after children who have been rendered orphans by the disease. Apart from working in hospital, Rose is active above all in the slums of Kampala where her various “headquarters” are located : Naguru, Kireka, Kintale and Nsambya.

In places where the word hope sounds “scandalous”, this “black Mother Teresa” and her assistants help the sick to rediscover the value of their lives, self-respect and love for others, and to overcome the mentality that considers the illness a social stigma.

PRESENTATION TO FOLLOW WITH PAOLO MONACI & GIANLUCA MELLILO

( SEE BIOS BELOW)



Paolo Monaci Freguglia was born in Rome, 1972.

AIDS FILM FESTIVAL & MUSEUM DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL HEADQUATERS (ROME)

He started his career as a musician and composer. He is, now, a young Italian producer of the entertainment industry. Paolo's main objective is to offer his contribution to the development of the Italian cinema, with particular attention given to young talent. Several projects will be simultaneously developed: films in various formats (shorts, medium, features), sit-coms, workshops, festival & events. Paolo annually produces the Golden Graal - Students' Choice Awards, whose 3rd edition was transmitted on RAIUNO on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, obtaining a 13% share. Currently, he is committed in producing a film in HD in Rome and planning to carry out a movie in 35mm with an international coproduction.



GIANLUCA MELILLO:

30 years old, Master in "Welfare Advisor – wellness and social security consultant" accomplished at "La Sapienza", University of Rome, all along committed with associations for the cultural, social and sporty promotion, as well as charity work and cooperation, before as an activist and now as an executive. Since 2006, he holds the office of National Responsible of Youth Policies and Social Communications Department at the AICS (Italian Association of Culture and Sport).

From May 2007 he is Delegate Bureau Member of the Italian Youth Forum, as Culture, Sport, Tourism and Campaigns Supervisor. He is in charge of many social and voluntary work associations. He has the role of Youth Policies handler for "Special Olympics Italia" with special reference in maintaining the relationships with the Italian and European Youth Institutions. He supports "tout court" associations through a deeper political involvement, both lay and religious, in order to truly and concretely improve the quality of life of many citizens. Moreover, he is a representative of the Italian Youth Forum, member of the National Observatory of Sporty Security, member of the National Table of Road Security and more national institutions... Besides of representative of the Italian Government in many international institutions like the OSCE Youth and the European Youth Forum... He is the author of many publications, among which "Doping, no grazie!", an informative text about the psycho-physical problems related with doping; and co-author of "Prevention of nutritional diseases", a text to help and prevent working diseases due to bad nutrition. He is the producer of many feature films of social topic, like "Cinema Libero (Free Cinema)", a documentary film made by teenagers between 16 and 23 with legal problems, where they are users and producers of the film.

12:00pm – 1:30pm

NYAFF TRAILER ( 10 MINUTES)

SAVE THE WORLD MUSICAL ( 7 minutes)

Save The World is a music video about the disease AIDS performed by various artists from Africa and the U.S.A. The song was originally written for an independent movie ' Tusamehe' which means ' forgive us' in Swahili a feature film also about HIV/AIDS.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME ON HIV AIDS ( 10 minutes)

Stephen Lewis: "...[HIV/AIDS is] sweeping through country after country destroying agriculture, destroying education, destroying health, destroying the private sector. Clearly if large numbers of farmers have died or many many of them are sick then food production drops and if food production drops, people whose immune systems are already weak don't have enough to eat and they therefore die more rapidly – similarly people whose immune systems are weak because they have HIV/AIDS are people who cannot produce the food so there is in the relationship between food and AIDS a kind of terrible witches' brew– one plays on the other and aggravates the other and the victim ultimately is the human being.' '

Against the Clock: Race for an AIDS Vaccine  
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative  
Running Time ( 22 minutes)

“ Against the Clock: Race for an AIDS Vaccine” is a documentary produced by Rockhopper TV for BBC, highlighting progress in AIDS vaccine research and development. The documentary, which first aired in early July as part of the BBC World' s “ Kill or Cure?” series, features AIDS specialists, researchers and community workers who discuss the impact HIV and AIDS have on their communities and how they are engaged in finding a solution to the epidemic. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative partners at the Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative and the Tuberculosis Research Centre in India, as well as IAVI President Seth Berkley, discuss the critical need for a sustained global effort to develop an AIDS vaccine. The first part of the documentary focuses on initial research efforts surrounding a unique population of sex workers in Kenya who provided scientists with the first indication that an AIDS vaccine would be possible. These women remained HIV-negative despite repeated exposure to the virus. The second part of the documentary highlights the strong clinical infrastructure in Kenya and India and the important role both countries play in educating communities and recruiting volunteers for AIDS vaccine trials. “ Against the Clock: Race for an AIDS Vaccine” provides compelling footage depicting global efforts to combat one of the world' s deadliest pandemics.

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) is a global not-for-profit organization whose mission is to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV vaccines for use throughout the world. Founded in 1996 and operational in 24 countries, IAVI and its network of collaborators research and develop vaccine candidates. IAVI would like to thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for their generous support in funding the production of this film.

2:00- 4:30

**SHORT OPENER :WAKE UP  
(20 MINUTES)**

**DIRECTOR – SIMONE DUARTE & NARRATED BY ROBERTA FLACK**

What should you do when 17% of the teachers in your country are HIV positive? When it is hard to convince men to use condoms and the rate of HIV infection among women keeps rising? The 20-minute documentary WAKE UP shows what women and children in Mozambique are doing to fight something this big. Simone Duarte is a Brazilian journalist whose credits include a 2002 International Emmy nomination for the news coverage of the 9/11 attacks and a 2001 Honorable Mention from the United Nations Correspondents Association for her television series on East Timor. She was the New York News Bureau chief of TV Globo, the main network in South America and has 15 years of experience as a television producer, writer and correspondent.

**FEATURE PRESENTATION:**

**CABLE POSITIVE: WOMEN AND HIV  
HOSTED BY GLORIA REUBEN  
( 45 MINUTES)**

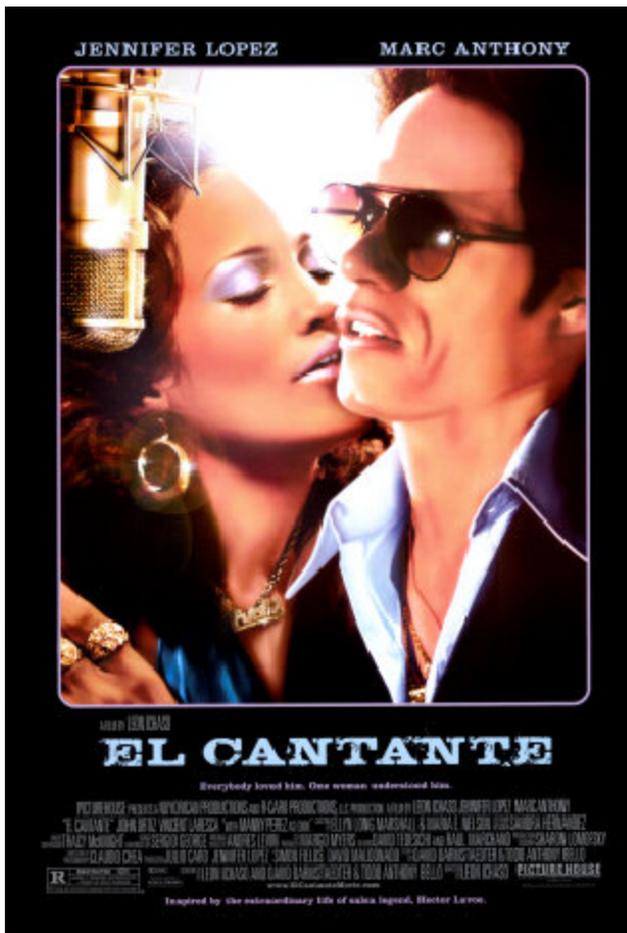
Positive Voices: Women and HIV, Cable Positive' s third installment in their award winning Positive Voices documentary series, deals with this startling fact. Produced in association with Kismet Films, Positive Voices: Women and HIV is a 46 minute documentary that explores the lives of six women who have been affected by HIV and AIDS. The piece is hosted by actress and activist, Gloria Reuben and includes interviews with women living with HIV, members of the media who cover the epidemic, AIDS advocates and service providers.

**CABLE POSITIVE ( A MULTIPLE WINNER OF THE NY AIDS FILM FESTIVAL)**

Mission Statement Cable Positive will mobilize the talents, resources, access and influence of the cable and telecommunications industry to raise HIV/AIDS awareness; support HIV/AIDS education, prevention and care; and strive to end stigma by creating a more compassionate climate for people whose lives have been affected by HIV or AIDS.

History Cable Positive was founded in February 1992 by three concerned cable executives, Jeffrey Bernstein, then with Request Television, Brad Wojcoski of HBO and June Winters, with the mission of organizing cable's resources in the fight against AIDS. Since then, Cable Positive has grown to include supporters from every major network, MSO, system, hardware manufacturer, trade association, media publication, and affiliated industry vendors and suppliers.

**QUESTION & ANSWER TO FOLLOW**



5:00 – 7:00pm

EL CANTANTE – STARRING MARC ANTHONY & JENNIFER LOPEZ

SPECIAL SCREENING WITH ABBOTT LABORATORIES

It has been said that Hector Lavoe was to salsa what [Frank Sinatra](#) was to pop music. Pioneering a sound that blended Puerto Rican and American influences, Lavoe's humble beginnings as a teenaged singer in Puerto Rico to his days as a Latin idol living in New York City are chronicled in this soulful film combining vibrant, sizzling musical numbers with heart-wrenching drama. Chart-topping pop star Marc Anthony gives a dazzling performance as Lavoe, pulled by stardom to the United States in the early 1960s, quickly capturing the praise and attention of local musicians and New York audiences. When Lavoe meets Puchi ([Jennifer Lopez](#)) - a tough-talking beauty who becomes both Hector's muse and his true love - she gives him the confidence to dive head first into the music business. Recording albums, selling-out shows and producing hit after hit, Lavoe gets bitten hard by the fame bug, succumbing to a serious drug and alcohol addiction brought on by the endless tragedy that has shrouded his life for years - an addiction dead set on destroying everything he has worked so hard to achieve.

QUESTION & ANSWER TO FOLLOW THE SCREENING



CLOSING FILM AND WINNER OF THE NEW YORK AIDS FILM FESTIVAL!!!  
LIFE SUPPORT  
7:15 – 9:00pm

Produced by Jamie Foxx for HBO, this drama stars Queen Latifah as Ana a woman struggling to maintain a happy life despite being HIV-positive. Though her home-life seems happy with a loving husband and young daughter, Ana remains haunted by a past that produced Kelly (Rachel Nicks), a resentful estranged older daughter who now lives with Ana's mother. Juxtaposed with Ana's healthy approach to life with HIV is Amare (Evan Ross), a friend of Kelly's who uses narcotics to deal with the disease. Life Support screened at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival.

QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH NELSON GEORGE AND SOME CAST  
DVD GIFT BAGS PROVIDED BY HOME BOX OFFICE

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## CLOSING CEREMONY at NYU

Sunday, December 2, 2007

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King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center  
53 Washington Square South

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If you are a film maker this is free for you!!!

8:30 – 9:00-PM

Cocktails

9:15 - 10:15pm

Film Awards to participants

Berthe Meka' a Award presented to Nelson George, HBO Life  
Support

Humanitarian Awards

CINDY NEWTON (group manager)

HONORED - THE SENIOR CITIZEN AIDS WALKERS

10:30 - 11:0pm

Passed Dinner, Dessert & Cocktails

\$100

Tickets still available

RSVP to [tickets@newyorkaidsfilmfestival.org](mailto:tickets@newyorkaidsfilmfestival.org)

SUBJECT LINE: CLOSING NIGHT

CHECKS TO :AFRICAN ACTION ON AIDS A 501c3 Organization  
511 Avenue of the Americas # 302 NYC 10011

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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