

# THE STUDIO COMPETITIVE DANCE TEAM 2017-18

## Dancer/Parent Policies and Contract

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*Welcome to The Studio's 2017-18 Competitive Season Layout! The following procedures are set forth to shape our team's member's to be the strongest, most respectful, talented dancers and young people possible. Our philosophies are centered around teamwork, and the support and love that comes from being part of something bigger than oneself.*

*Our competitive dance teams are composed of The Studio's most dedicated and talented dancers. Members headline all events and shows, serve as a competitive dance team, attend dance conventions, workshops and are looked up to as stars throughout The Studio, and our community. Our strategies are structured around teamwork, and the support and love that comes from being part of something bigger than oneself.*

*We offer the serious dancer intense, professional training along with performance opportunities that will be the foundation of their dance education. We strive to do this in a positive structured environment; therefore, we must set forth the following guidelines. Please take the time to read over this document carefully. Competitive dance is a commitment that involves a tremendous amount of time and dedication. Please understand that there are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to the guidelines below. If you feel that you cannot make the following commitments, you may want to reconsider becoming a member. Please be sure your dancer reads and understands the policies themselves.*

## REQUIREMENTS

1. **Dancers must attend all 6 required classes. These classes include Jazz, Cecchetti, Technique Class, Strength & Conditioning, Ballet and Contemporary and/or Hip Hop.** Of course, dancer's may take both Contemporary and Hip Hop, along with any other additional classes they wish ranging from Production Team and Tap to Solos/Duets/Trios/Small Groups and Specialty Routines. Each day students are in the studio, they may have lessons from 1-5 hours and may or may not have breaks in between each class.

Competitive **routine rehearsals** run for half hour, and are paired with a matching half hour **class** where students work on technique of the same genre. For instance, a child would take their 30 min competitive jazz routine class, and then would take part in a 30 min class that focused on different jazz combos and techniques. In some cases, we may have a level split into **TWO SEPARATE ROUTINES**; for instance, Intermediate Jazz Beginning and Intermediate Jazz Advanced. If so all the Intermediates would take **ONE JAZZ CLASS** together. Instructors may use class time to work on routines should it be close to a competition or an event.

Some students will be asked to participate in an extra "specialty number". This will be by invite only and at the discretion of The Studio staff depending mainly on audition scores but also age, experience, level and ability or a certain look they may need to fulfill a part. It is not appropriate to ask if you can be added to these numbers. Should you be invited remember the opportunity is optional, and is an additional costume, competition and class charge.

**COMP II** is a program where dancers are offered the opportunity to compete, with less of a time commitment. It requires the dancer take a ballet or Cecchetti class, one technique class, and their routine class. Comp II students must still abide to all of the following guidelines included within. This includes attending convention one and 3 competitions.

This is an off Nationals year.

2. **Dancers will have "Choreography Workshops", for each performance number, on some weekends up until December. These are 3-6 hour workshops held mainly on Saturdays and Sundays.** Some of these workshops will be held in late August and early September before our actual season begins. We like to give everyone a few week notice as to when these will occur. There will be a separate choreography fee paid on the day of Choreography Workshops. By getting choreography done outside of regularly classes we have more class time to polish routines and explore the form of movement being studied in class. A schedule of

when these workshops will be held will be given out after auditions. Prices for choreography workshops range from \$50-\$140 per routine. We ask students to wear all black to these workshops being either black sports bra, black leotard, black booty shorts or leggings.

Intermediate-Prestige Levels: Two choreography dates we already have scheduled are Mr. Blake August 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Russell September 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

3. **Dancers must attend all 3 mandatory dance competitions and at least one dance convention.** For higher level teams (Advanced-Elite) we may be attending one additional convention and 1 or more additional competitions in which we may take some or all of their routines. Solos, duets, trios have the optional opportunity of competing in up to seven different competitions.

**Along with the above, dancers must be in attendance for all shows including the Pumpkinfest Parade, 2 Studio Holiday Shows with participation in the opening number and all Production/Recitals (2-3 in either one weekend or separated into two weekends) with the exception of one absence in the case of illness, death in family or vacation plans. Please notify us in your contract of family vacations or dates where your dancer may be unavailable.**

4. Dancers must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA or C average to stay on the team. We will do a report card check at some point in the season. We ask that parents help encourage high grades, and notify us if a child is having trouble keeping up with school and dance. School comes first, and if difficulty occurs we would like to be able to help. This may be done by lessening the number of classes a student takes or rearranging their schedule.

## ATTENDANCE

Competitive dancers can miss 5-7 classes per session (basically one week out of eight) if necessary. Please notify us at least 3 weeks in advance if you have a vacation planned. If absence should occur, the dancer will need to schedule time with another team member to pick up on missed material, or have someone video tape the choreography for your dancer and/or schedule a private lesson with the instructor, should they be available. **Dancers may not come into class without the knowledge of the previous week's instruction.** Therefore, we stress the importance of learning missed material, or simply avoid missing classes.

**In case you are unable to make it to class, for any reason please notify us by calling the front desk and leaving a message.** This is how we record absences. Please DO NOT text or call instructors to notify them of absence without calling the front desk first please. **Attendance is mandatory at all classes TWO weeks prior to any competition, show or event or the student may not perform in the said event.** If for any reason a child does not know a routine the instructor reserves the right to set up paid private lessons or to pull a child from the piece. They may also choreograph the child to be off stage during certain parts of a routine the child is unable to master due to absences.

You must be serious about your dedication to the team. **Choosing to do another sport or activity does not excuse you from your competitive dance team commitment. Dancers may not miss classes to support their peers at competitions or events.**

## MAKE UP

Our Company Dancers have set make up they use for all events. **We use MAC as our chosen brand.** A list of products students will need to purchase will be given out at the parent meeting. Price for these products ranges from \$90-\$130.

## WARM UPS

All dancers will need a company "Studio Warm Up". Examples for sizing will be available at the front desk when we open in late September. Our dancers wear a black and white Adidas jacket. Pants to match the jacket will be available but are optional. Should you choose not to purchase the warm up pant your dancer must wear black and white Adidas pants and or black leggings with their jacket. Jacket \$110, pants are \$40. Our previous style warm up of shimmer pink and black is still acceptable for this season, but will not be fore next

# DANCE ATTIRE

Please wear leotard and pink tights for ballet class. As for other classes students may wear any combination of the following: leotard, tights, leggings, sports bra, and booty shorts, in your choice of color. No loose-fitting clothes or baggy clothes of any sort. Please wear hair pulled into a bun. Please avoid messy buns by using gel or hairspray to hold your bun in place. Hip hop class is the only exception for hair in that we often wear it down or half up, however buns are fine too.

# SHOES

**Shoes will be fitted at registration on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, before and after the Competitive Team Meeting/Registration.** We will once again have the Dancewear Gallery come into our studio to fit students. Doors will be open at The Studio for fittings from 3:00-8:00pm. Team members will need to purchase one pair of shoes for ballet, 2 pair of gore boots (or the selected jazz shoe, one for class and one for stage) and tap shoes if needed. It is important that all students are sized and order on this day, and that everyone get new shoes for the season. The only exception will be tap shoes in which if you wish to use last year's you must bring them to the meeting and have them okayed by your tap teacher or Tara. Hip hop shoes will be sized on a separate day. Students will also need a pair of tennis shoes, you may purchase on your own, to use in strength and conditioning and hip-hop class.

# COSTUME COSTS AND DETAILS

Dancers will need to purchase one costume for each class that they do a competitive routine in. Please keep in mind solos, duets, and trios are an additional costume fee. Costumes will be \$120-\$130 a piece. In the past years, and this year we will charge one fee per costume, and then distribute the funds as needed (Some costumes being the lower price range, others being the higher.) Company Dancers receive the best of the best when it comes to costumes. Please understand intricate costumes can be more expensive.

Instructors reserve the right to do "group alterations" to any costume should they feel it necessary. Alterations are done by our studio seamstress. Group alterations may consist of reconstructing or creating a different style or fit. Group alterations and individual fittings are the responsibility of the parent. All alterations and adjustments must be done prior to the first performance.

Rhinestoning is often part of creating the perfect costume. Rhinestoning is a separate expense, normally ranging no more than \$5-\$10 for stones. Rhinestoning is done by parents at "Rhinestoning Parties", normally held at The Studio during an extra practice for your dancer. These parties are seen as bonding experiences for our parents!!

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# IMPORTANT DATES, COMPETITIONS AND CONVENTIONS

WITH IT BEING EARLY IN THE SEASON, WE ARE AWAITING DATES/LOCATIONS FOR SOME OF THE EVENTS WE WISH TO ATTEND. WE WILL NOTIFY YOU OF THIS INFORMATION AT THE FIRST REGISTRATION MEETING.

## **FIRST COMPETITIVE TEAM MEETING/REGISTRATION- Tuesday, August 22nd at 6:00PM**

This is the date where you will register your child for classes and get them fitted for all of their shoes; **THEREFORE WE ASK THAT EVERYONE IS IN ATTENDANCE.** If you can not attend, you will need to get your shoes on your own and set up a meeting with Tara to get registered.

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Conventions are where dancers take lessons from the very best instructors in the US for a series of days. We are planning on attending one mandatory Convention with options of other additional Conventions should you choose. The average for a convention is \$175-\$300.

Competition is where dancers compete against other schools, for top honors. We are planning on attending 3 mandatory competitions for the 2017-18 Season. Our most advanced dancers will have the option of 3-7. The average cost for each group competition dance is \$45-\$60 per event. Soloist, duets and trios may also choose to attend additional competitions.

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## MAIN CONVENTION 2018

**DANCE MAKERS** Feb 2nd-4th EDWARD VILLAGE MICHIGAN HOTEL, DEARBORN

## OPTIONAL CONVENTIONS 2017-18

*\*\*All Conventions have options to compete solos, duets and trios*

**ASH** Oct 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> EDWARD VILLAGE MICHIGAN HOTEL, DEARBORN

**NUVO** Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> EDWARD VILLAGE MICHIGAN HOTEL, DEARBORN

**24 Seven** March 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> DETROIT MARRIOTT RENNAISSANCE CENTER

**INTRIQUE** March 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> EDWARD VILLAGE MICHIGAN HOTEL, DEARBORN

**JUMP** April 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> EDWARD VILLAGE MICHIGAN HOTEL, DEARBORN

**RADIX** May 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> LANSING CENTER

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## COMPETITIONS 2018

We will choose 3 mandatory events. It is early in the season, and dates and locations are tentative. The Studio reserves the right to change these events.

**TURN IT UP** Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> South Lyon, MI South Lyon East High School

**\*\*PLATINUM** March 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> South Lyon, MI

**\*\*EDGE** March 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Waterford, MI Kettering High School

**ON POINTE** April 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Chelsea, MI Chelsea High School

**\*\* We will announce our final choice between Platinum or Edge at the first parent meeting.**

## OPTIONAL COMPETITIONS 2018

**ADRENALINE** TBA

**ONSTAGE NEW YORK** March 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> South Lyon, MI

**HALL OF FAME** TBA

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## SHOWS/PERFORMANCES

**Pumpkinfest** – Saturday, September 23rd 10:00am

**Studio Holiday Shows** – Preferred: Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Back up: Dec 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>

**Production/Recitals** – May 2018

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### **Company Dancer Auditions**

August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> (add August 16<sup>th</sup> for Tap and Ballet Line)

### **Registration/Shoe Fitting**

Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00PM

All students must be sized for shoes this day please. Parents will also need to register for classes on this date. If for some reason you have issues with attending please make us aware.

### **Company Dancer Slumber Party/Parade Routine Rehearsal**

Friday, September 15th 6:00PM-Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM

### **Parade Rehearsal Number 2**

Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:30-5:30PM

All events are mandatory for Company Members. We will not accept students missing to attend a football games unless they are a member of the Pom Pon or Cheerleading Squad and have been excused.

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## **AGE BREAK DOWN**

The following lists how each group is structured age wise. Your child must be turning the lowest age of the breakdown by December 2017, to be considered for a certain group. In other words, PLEASE do not expect your child to make a company beyond their age. We are very strict about this. Dancers are placed by both age and ability level. Please keep in mind that it is typical for most dancers to spend two years at each level.

**The Studio reserves the right to change or adjust age break downs, make exceptions, or change the labels of teams if we feel necessary.**

ELEMENTARY 7-10 YRS

SECONDARY 8-13 YRS

INTERMEDIATE 10-16 YRS

ADVANCED 10-18 YRS

SENIOR 10-18 YRS

ELITE 10-18YRS

PRESTIGE 14-18YRS

\*\*\*Any of these levels can be split into two small groups.

# PARENT EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES

**The Studio competitive team requires a positive atmosphere from all involved, especially the parents, be it at competitions, shows or in the hallways of The Studio.** Cooperation between parents is expected always. Please show respect for faculty members, other parents and students. We are a family, it's all about helping one another and appreciating each other!! We ask parents to understand that children progress at different times. We cannot place kids together simply for the fact they are friends, or started together on the same team. Our goal is to cater to each child and their abilities in the proper manner as they travel through company. We understand that sometimes someone may not agree on our decisions as to placement. Regardless, we all need to support the program for the children to do so.

**\*A positive and enthusiastic outlook on the program extends to your child. Negative comments of feedback can be harmful to your child's progress and education.**

**\*Parents are expected to show great sportsmanship and professionalism at all events.** This means keeping a good attitude even if bumps in the road should occur. Our attitudes as adults greatly affect our children, especially in a competitive event where their emotions are already on overdrive. Please do not contact personally contact competitions or events, or take it upon yourself to discuss feelings in regard to scores, or situations with competition event staff. All communication with competitions or conventions is done solely by The Studio staff. If you have an issue please come to Tara and she will happily take care of your concern.

**\*Our main communication with parents is conducted via email. The Studio sends out an email labeled "Announcements" every 1-2 weeks. Please check your email regularly.**

**\*Posting of Studio group routines via social media is prohibited.** To post a solo routine please clear it with the choreographer and instructor and be sure to credit their work. Should you choose to post a photo of a group routine or dancer, we would appreciate a shout out (a mention of The Studio). Thank you!

**\*Please make sure your dancer arrives on time to all classes, competitions and events. Arriving on time to class means arriving 15 minutes prior to the start of the class for the dancer to get settled, get shoes on and to begin stretching out.** As far as competitions we ask that dancers are present, dressed and ready to go 2 hours prior to each dance being performed. Please understand that we are speaking for EACH ROUTINE. Instructors are very busy at competition and often have only a window of time to work with a group before they go on. The team must stay together until they perform. They may not wander the building, go off to eat without permission or take off with friends. The same is true for dance recitals and conventions.

**\*Parents are responsible for helping at one Holiday show performance, and one May production/recital performance.**

**\*Parents are responsible for paying tuition and competition/event fees on time, being by the first of the month.** Should the tuition arrive to The Studio or be paid on or after the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month there is a \$10 late fee for the first week, and an additional \$10 is added each week that tuition is not paid, until the tuition is caught up. Should an account become 2 months delinquent, the dancer associated will not be allowed to attend classes. The child of anyone holding an overdue balance at the time of a completion or recital will not be allowed to perform.

**\*Parents participate in one potluck for the Holiday Show and one Production/Recital.**

**\*Studio parents are responsible for contributing to the boosters program throughout the season by running an event, holding a chair or making a \$50 contribution to our boosters.** Boosters funds allow our dancers the privilege of having door signs made, special events created for bonding, end of the season memorabilia along with other special additions to the experience. There are many optional duties, projects and opportunities with The Studio Boosters should you wish to raise money to pay for your child's expenses.

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# STUDENT EXPECTATIONS – In Classes and Socially

This section of the guidelines is especially important for parents to review with their dancer prior to auditions.

1. Dancers will need to be committed to their classes, dance full-out and pay attention to their teachers. Those who listen to every correction, and apply themselves in class shall succeed. Remember in doing so to show respect to all faculty members, your parents and ALL students at The Studio.
2. Everyone is expected to work as a team player, and help in the growth of their fellow peers. We strengthen our body's every day, we must also strengthen our hearts and human character.
3. It's EXTREMELY important to us that all our students feel safe and comfortable in our facility. Should we find that a dancer is taking it upon themselves to bully, make fun of or make anyone not feel welcome, that dancer will be excluded from upcoming events or suspended from classes. **BULLYING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** The same goes for bad attitudes. Giving attitude in class is distracting to others and disrespectful to the instructor. Should an instructor experience attitude in class they may ask the child to leave the classroom, and the parent will be contacted. Continued problems may result in exclusion from an upcoming event, or suspension from The Studio. We would hate to see this happen with any of our students. Parents PLEASE take the time to discuss our new bullying and bad attitude policies with your dancer, and remind them all classes are equipped with video cameras. In the event that you are asked not to return to The Studio because of bullying, or for any other violation of the contract, there will be no reimbursement for any classes choreography fees or any other fees associated with The Studio.
4. With the growth trend in social media, we ask that all dancers represent positivity via their posts. Any negativity, bullying or inappropriate posts, whether they be in regards to The Studio or to anyone at all, will not be tolerated. Anyone choosing to text or use social media to discuss another student or instructor in a negative manner will be suspended or asked to leave. We also ask the children be careful about being clothed in their posts. Our competitive members represent The Studio at all times. Please monitor your child's social media accounts.
5. The Studio does not support students younger than 14 years old using texting or social media to communicate with The Studio staff. For anyone 14 years or older to use this method of communication with instructors it must first be okayed by the parent.
6. Come to class prepared. Be sure you've eaten, and bring proper shoes.
7. Tell your instructor if you are feeling sick or have an injury before class.
8. Support each other. Not everyone will get to shine at the same time, but we'll all have our chance.
9. Please maintain the most respectful attitude outside of class. Remember that dancers outside of Company look up to you and you must serve as an example.

## COMMITMENT

This word cannot be stressed enough as you make the decision to participate in competition dance. Members are expected to stick to their commitment through the entire dance season **beginning August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 and ending at the conclusion of our last week of classes. Should you decide to drop out, you are still responsible for all payments from September 2017 to June 2018. This contract is binding under the law, and holds you responsible for the said payments should you sign it. THESE TERMS WILL BE ENFORCED.** Teams are carefully chosen, with a certain number of girls at auditions. If we have a drop out, that spot could have gone to another girl. It's also a financial loss to The Studio. At any time The Studio reserves the right to dismiss a member from our team should they, or the parent, not be able to comply with the terms enclosed.

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## AUDITION INFORMATION

Each dancer is required to take the Competitive Dance Workshop/Audition on August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> (add August 16<sup>th</sup> for Tap and Ballet Line), where they will be taught routines, review technical aspects, and then audition. Dancers ages 7-10 yrs please plan on being at The Studio from 3:00-6:00PM both days, dancers 11-18yrs please attend from 6:30-9:30PM both days. Those auditioning for tap please arrive at The Studio on Aug 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM for your audition. Those auditioning for Ballet Line or Pointe please arrive on Aug 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM. All dancers please wear leotard or sports bra and shorts. Tights or booty shorts are optional. Have your hair pulled in a neat bun. No dance pants. Remember you are auditioning and you want to stand out. Choose your best outfit and don't be afraid to enhance with competitive earrings, hair accessories and make up.

**Dancers must be registered for auditions by Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.** Auditions are \$75 and include 2-3 evenings of lessons, all material to audition with, the actual auditions, results, and a class schedule released to you after you are registered. If you are not able to make auditions you may set up a to be part of our private auditions which take place in September. Private auditions are \$120.

Results of auditions will be sent via mail and should arrive to you by **Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**. Should you not receive them by Sunday evening please contact Tara via text at 248.767.9530. If you and your dancer have read and agree to the information in this contract, please sign below and **return this sheet in at your audition on Monday evening.**

**Good luck to everyone!**

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## PARENT/STAFF AUDITION COMMUNICATION

Should you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding your child's placement or non-placement on a particular team **please contact The Studio at 248.486.0649.** You reserve every right to hear why or why not your child did or did not make a specific team. In making the call we will then schedule a meeting with you and the professionals that made the final decisions. Instructors will not accept personal calls, Emails or texts, regarding the decisions made at auditions. Putting them in this situation could jeopardize their job. Thank you for understanding.



Please fill out the following completely so we may do our best in personally placing your dancer in our competitive teams. PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETE CONTRACT AT AUDITIONS MONDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>.

Please consider me for the following groups (circle if interested):

**Contemporary/Lyrical      Hip Hop      Ballet Line      Production      Comp II**

**Solo      Duet      Trio      Small Group (4-5 Dancers)      Tap**

**Specialty Group**

**\*\*Please remember to specify Contemporary, Hip Hop, or both**

**Specialty Groups-** Some students will be asked to participate in extra "specialty numbers". This will be by invite only and at the discretion of The Studio staff depending on age, experience, level and ability or a certain look they may need to fulfill a part.

**Production-** A routine in which anyone, from any level may participate in. It is The Studio's largest dance number.

**Ballet Line-** A group of dancers wishing to compete in a ballet number. This is our only competing ballet group.

**Comp II-** Separate from Company, a group that competes one dance and takes 3 classes total.

**Solo-** A dance with you as the only dancer.

**Duet-** A dance with you and one other person either of your choice, or someone we choose for you.

**Trio-** A dance with you and two other people either of your choice, or ours.

**\*\* To have a solo, duet, trio or small group you must hit a certain score in auditions. If you wish to request a duet, trio or small group with a certain group of dancers please specify who. The Studio prefers to pick your partners, but will consider requests.**

**Additional Notes to the judges from the parent:**

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**For the parade:**

**My Shirt Size:** \_\_\_\_\_ **My Dress Size:** \_\_\_\_\_ **My pant Size:** \_\_\_\_\_

*We have read The Studio's 2017-18 Competitive Policies and agree to them, should we be placed on a team. We understand that our signatures below commit us to a full season. We understand that if we can not comply with all the above stated policies, then we will be released.* **PLEASE BRING THIS ENTIRE PACKET WITH YOU TO AUDITIONS.**

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number to Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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