

## AUSTRALIAN EPHEMERA COLLECTION FINDING AID

CYRIL RITCHARD (1897-1977)

PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS AND EPHEMERA (PROMPT)

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**Cyril Ritchard** (1 December 1897 – 18 December 1977) was an Australian stage, screen and television actor, and director. He is probably best remembered today for his performance as Captain Hook in the Mary Martin musical production of *Peter Pan*. In 1945, he played Gabriele Eisenstein in *Gay Rosalinda* at the Palace Theatre in London, a version of Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* by Erich Wolfgang Korngold in which he appeared with Peter Graves, Irene Ambrus and Ruth Naylor. The show was conducted by Richard Tauber and ran for almost a year.

He was born Cyril Trimnell-Ritchard in Surry Hills, Sydney, Australia, to Sydney-born parents, Herbert Trimnell-Ritchard, a Protestant grocer, and his wife Marguerite, a devout Roman Catholic who ensured her son was raised as a Roman Catholic. Educated by the Jesuits at St Aloysius' College, Cyril was a lifelong devout Catholic who attended Sunday Mass wherever he happened to be.

Early in his career, Ritchard played in numerous musical comedies, including *Yes, Uncle!* and *Going Up*, both in 1918 with actress Madge Elliott (who became his wife in September 1935).

He achieved star status in 1954 as Captain Hook in the Broadway production of *Peter Pan* co-starring Mary Martin, with whom he shared the same birthday (1 December). For his work in the show, Ritchard received a Tony Award as Best Featured Actor in a Musical. Both Ritchard and Martin reprised their roles in the NBC television productions of the musical, beginning with a live color telecast in 1955. In 1959 he won second Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play for "The Pleasure of His Company"

He appeared onstage in *Sugar* (1972), and *The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd* (1965), with Anthony Newley. He was also a director, directing on Broadway *The Happiest Girl in the World* (1961) (in which he also appeared), *Roar Like a Dove* (1964) and *The Irregular Verb to Love* (1963), in which he also appeared.

His film appearances include a villainous role in Alfred Hitchcock's early talkie *Blackmail* (1929) and much later in the Tommy Steele vehicle *Half a Sixpence* (1967).

Ritchard also appeared regularly on a variety of television programs in the late 1950s and 1960s. For example, he did a stint as one of the *What's My Line?* mystery guests on 22 December 1957,

episode of the popular Sunday night CBS-TV program. In the 1960s Ritchard played the comic lead in Jacques Offenbach's operetta, *La Perichole* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Later Ritchard served as a guest panelist on the Met's radio quiz show, where he was, perhaps comically, referred to as 'Sir Cyril'. However, Ritchard was never knighted.

Shortly before he died, Ritchard performed as the voice of Elrond in the Rankin/Bass television production of *The Hobbit*.

Ritchard lived at The Langham, a famed apartment house in New York. He suffered a heart attack on 25 November 1977, aged 79, while appearing as the narrator in the Chicago touring company of *Side by Side by Sondheim*. He died a month later in Chicago, aged 80, and was buried at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Ridgefield, Connecticut, where he had long resided in his rural home. His funeral Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Fulton Sheen. His wife Madge predeceased him in 1955 as did a baby boy who died in infancy in 1939.

## CONTENT

Printed materials in the PROMPT collection include programs and printed ephemera such as brochures, leaflets, tickets, etc. Theatre programs are taken as the prime documentary evidence of a performance.

The list is based on imperfect holdings, and is updated as gaps in the Library's holdings are filled. Unless otherwise stated, all entries are based on published programs in the PROMPT collection.

## ACCESS

The Cyril Ritchard PROMPT files may be accessed through the Library's Special Collections Reading Room by eCallslip request: <http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/3530693>.

## ARRANGEMENT

Programs in the National Library Cyril Ritchard ' PROMPT collection are arranged under the headings:

- [Australian Performances](#)
- [Overseas Performances](#)
- [Other items](#)

and under each of these headings, programmes are individually listed, chronologically, by performance as follows:

**Date (day and month); Theatre, City**

*Name of production* or performer

Headline performers etc.

An [index](#) to staged productions is provided at the end of the document. This document is also keyword searchable.

## OTHER RESOURCES

The National Library's collection also includes:

- [Oral History recordings and interviews.](#)
- [Scrapbooks, personal papers in Manuscripts \(NB: these manuscript collections may include additional programs\)](#)
- [Pictures](#)
- [Published works](#)


Further material held in major Australian libraries may also be found through Trove, for example


- [Digitised newspaper items](#)
- [Sound recordings, music and video](#)
- [Letters and diaries..](#)


## AUSTRALIAN PERFORMANCES


1923 25 August. Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, NSW  
***The Cabaret Girl***  
CR as Mr Grippe


## OVERSEAS PERFORMANCES

1925 2 February. Fulton Theatre, New York, USA  
***Puzzles of 1925***  
CR in various revue acts.

1925 29 June. Duke of York's Theatre, London, England  
***Bubbly!***  
CR in various items

1925 7 December. London – Prince of Wales' Theatre  
***Charlot's Revue***  
CR as Lord Silverside in Cabaret Drama and other sketches

1926 23 February. Vaudeville Theatre  
Archibald de Bear's Revue  
***R.S.V.P*** in three parts including "Alice in Lumberland" and "Worse than any Mary"  
CR as several sketches

1927 April 27. Carlton Theatre, London, England  
***Lady Luck***  
CR as Tommy Lester  
5 copies with orange colouring on front cover. 2 copies with lemon colouring on front cover. Play ran for 327 performances, so there may have been two issues of the programme, each with different coloured front page.  
Also one copy of magazine, *The Lucky Mirror*, dated Wednesday 19 October 1927 and marking that *Lady Luck* has reached its 200<sup>th</sup> performance.

1928 25 April. Winter Garden Theatre, London, England  
***So This Love***  
CR as Hon. Peter Malden

1928 12 June. Chelsea – Royal Hospital Gardens, London, England  
***Theatrical Garden Party*** in aid of The Actor's Orphanage  
CR in No.15. "So this is love" Casino and Dance Hall

1929 20 March. Gaiety Theatre, London, England  
Laddie Cliff presents  
***Love Lies***

CR as Jack Stanton (an art student)  
Program includes photographs of CR



1929

21 April. Queen's Theatre, London, England

**Green Room Rags**

Charity Sunday Performance for Green Room Society

4<sup>th</sup> and last Rag of 6th series

CR appears in items with Madge Elliott, and H. D. Hedley as pianist and Orchestra under direction of Harry Acres

Includes special bill detailing Raymond and Agnes cast and items.



1929

13 July. Little Carnegie Playhouse, New York, USA

**Piccadilly**

CR plays Victor Smiles.

Program for the film.



1930

January. Streatham Hill Theatre, London, England

Laddie Cliff presents

**Love Lies**

CR as Jack Stanton



1930

4 April. The London Hippodrome, London England

**The Co-optimists of 1930**

Part I. CR in 7. 'The moment I saw you'; 9. 'Operatic House-Hunting'; 12. 'Adam and Eve';

Part II. CR in 4. 'The Lost Child' as Doctor Dear; 7. 'Burglary a la mode' as Sykes  
3 copies.



1930

25 June. Gaiety Theatre, London, England

Laddie Cliff presents

**The Love Race**

CR as Harry Drake

Also a copy of *Theatre World* August 1930 Vol XIV no 67 pp 20-21, with photos and commentary on performance.



1931

2 March. Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham, England

**The Love Race**

CR as Harry Drake (talkie star), also in Interlude de Ballet with Madge Elliott

Photograph of CR(?)



1931

20 May. Gaiety Theatre, London, England

**The Millionaire Kid – a new Musical Play**

CR as the Hon Aubrey Forsyth

Program includes photographs of CR

2 copies, one shows that the show was still running in July. Some differences in

advertisements in program.

89 performances, Returned at the Prince Edward Theatre, December 24th

1936

1 April, Saville Theatre, London , England

***Spread it Abroad***

William Walker's Revue

Revue. CR in sketches

1936

December. London – Comedy Theatre

***Spread it Abroad***

CR performs in various comedy sketches

1936

26 November. London – Comedy Theatre

***To and Fro***

CR as Lord Silverside

1937

5 April. "Q" Theatre, London, England

***The Constant Sinner***

CR as Hugo Arnold

1937

8 June. Queen Mary's Gardens, Regents Park, London, England

***Theatrical Garden Party***, in aid of the Actor's Orphanage.

CR at the Australian Fruit Shop

1937

2 August London – "Q" Theatre

***The Way of a Wife***

CR as Colin Taunton

1937

September. Ambassadors Theatre, London, England

***People in Love***

A very light comedy by Arthur Reid

CR as David

1937

20 December. Garrick Theatre, London, England

***Bedtime Story***

CR as Sir John Shale, Bt.

1938

20 June. Her Majesty's Theatre, London, England

***Jubilee Matinee*** in aid of The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and the

Theatrical Ladies Guild

CR as a "friend"

1938

30 June. Royal Adelphi Theatre, London, England

Charles B Cochran directs, in the presence of T.R.H> The Duke and Duchess of Kent, in aid of the Tavistock Clinic

***A Midnight Revue***

CR in one program item, unnamed.

1938

26 January. – Little Theatre, London, England

***Nine Sharp***

Revue – CR in sketches

Four copies

One copy - The Magazine Programme No 1199, dated 7 February

One copy - The Magazine Programme No 1224, dated 1 August

One copy - The Magazine Programme No 1230, dated 12 September

One copy - The Magazine Programme No 1234, dated 10 October

1939

23 January. Golders Green Hippodrome, London, England

***Nine Sharp***

Revue – CR in sketches

(The Magazine Programme No. 1249.)

1939

30 January. London Coliseum, London, England

***Coliseum Varieties***

CR in “Tit-bits” from Herbert Farjeon’s revue, *Nine Sharp*.

1939

21 April. . London – Little Theatre

***Herbert Farjeon’s Little Revue***

Revue – CR in sketches

Sketches produced by CR

2 copies dated as *The Magazine Programme* no 1263 for 1 May, one copy dated

as *The Magazine Programme* no 1264 for 8 May, one copy showing *The Magazine Programme* no 1286 i.e. approximately 6 months later than other copies and marked as “second edition”

Also copy of *Theatre World* September 1939 pp108 ff contains photos and commentary on performance.

1940

30 April. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, England

***Special Anglo- French performance***, provided by the Navy, Army and Airforce Institutes, arranged by E.N.S.A

CR in Leslie Henson’s Club Scene from “Up and doing”

1941

3 March. Alhambra Theatre, . Bradford , England

***Up and doing***

CR in sketches and sings

1941

30 April. New Theatre, Oxford, England

***Up and Doing***

CR in sketches

- 1941 20 May. Saville Theatre, London, England  
***Up and doing***  
CR in sketches and sings  
2 copies.
- 1941 24 May 24. Windsor Castle, Windsor, England  
***Up and Doing***  
CR in sketches
- 1941 13 August. Ambassadors Theatre, London, England  
J. W. Pemberton presents  
***The New Ambassadors Revue***  
Produced by CR
- 1941 24 August. Saville Theatre, London, England  
***Green Room Rags***  
CR in "Lilac in Bloom – and you"  
Program plus flyer.
- 1942 8 May. His Majesty's Theatre, London, England  
Charles B Cochran presents  
***Big Top.***  
Revue by Herbert Farjeon  
CR in sketches and lyrics.  
Cast also includes Madge Elliott.  
3 copies.
- 1942 31 March- 18 April. Manchester Opera House, Manchester, England  
Charles B Cochran presents  
***Big Top.***  
Revue by Herbert Farjeon  
CR in sketches and lyrics.  
Cast also includes Madge Elliott.
- 1943 4 March. His Majesty's Theatre, London, England  
Jack Hylton presents  
***The Merry Widow***  
CR as Prince Danilo (Secretary of Legation). Produced by CR
- 1943 24 October. Phoenix Theatre, London  
***The Importance of Being Ernest***  
CR as Algernon Montcrieffe.
- 1944 February – June. Alhambra Cinema – Theatre, Alexandria, Egypt  
***The Merry Widow***  
CR as Prince Danilo (Secretary of Legation)



Presented by ENSA Entertainments (NAAFI) (Entertainments National Service Assn – Navy, Army, Air Force Institute).



1944

4 September. Royal Hall, Harrogate, London England

***The Merry Widow***

Produced by CR and William Mollison

CR as Prince Danillo

Choreography by Robert Helpmann



1945

March 5. Palace Theatre, London, England

***Gay Rosalinda*** (Fledermaus)

CR as Gabriel von Elisenstein

Second copy dated May 28, 1945



1945

11 July – 4 August Opera House, Manchester, England

Noel Coward's ***Sigh no More***

CR in sketches



1945

22 August. Piccadilly Theatre, London, England

Noel Coward's ***Sigh no More***

Revue. CR in sketches

2 copies.



1947

16 June. Royale Theatre, New York, USA

***Love for Love***

CR as Tattle

Signatures of cast on cover.

*Playbill Magazine Weekly* dated 16 June, 1947

2 copies of *Playbill Magazine Weekly* dated 30 June, 1947



1947

1 December. Theatre Royal, Brighton, England

***The Relapse or Virtue in Danger***

CR as Sir Novelty Fashion

2<sup>nd</sup> copy for week commencing Monday 6 September 1948. (May have been a second season in Brighton),



1948

28 January. Phoenix Theatre, London, England

***The Relapse or Virtue in Danger*** XE "The Relapse or Virtue in Danger"

CR as Sir Novelty Fashion

3 copies. One minor cast change.









1948

20 September. Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, England

***The Relapse or Virtue in Danger*** XE "The Relapse or Virtue in Danger"

CR as Sir Novelty Fashion, newly created Lord Foppington

-  1948 27 September. Opera House, Manchester, England  
***The Relapse or Virtue in Danger*** XE "The Relapse or Virtue in Danger"  
CR as Sir Novelty Fashion, newly created Lord Foppington
-  1948 11 October Birmingham – Theatre Royal  
***The Relapse or Virtue in Danger*** XE "The Relapse or Virtue in Danger"  
CR as Sir Novelty Fashion
-  1948 22 December Cort Theatre, New York, USA  
***Make Way for Lucia***  
CR as Georgie Pillson
-  1949 10 January– Cort Theatre, New York  
***Make Way for Lucia***  
CR as Georgie Pillson  
*Playbill Magazine* dated 10 January 1949. Season started in December 1948.
-  1949 4 May. Opera House, Manchester. England  
Jack Hylton presents  
***Ann Veronica*** / H G Wells, retold for the stage by Ronald Gow  
CR as Hubert Manning
-  1949 20 May. Piccadilly Theatre, London. England  
Jack Hylton presents  
***Ann Veronica*** / by Ronald Gow from H G Wells  
CR as Hubert Manning;
-  1949 31 May. Roehampton Club. Roehampton, London  
***Theatrical Garden Party*** in aid of the Actors' Orphanage  
CR as compere with Joyce Grenfell, Madge Elliott, Roger Livesey, Ursula Jeans,  
Walter Crisham, p. 41. Annual event presided over by Noel Coward and full of  
theatrical stars.
-  1949 19 June. Apollo Theatre, London, England  
***Green Room Rags***  
CR as Ferdinando in "Violetta".
-  1949 7 November. New Theatre, Oxford, England  
***The Schoolmistress***  
CR as The Hon. Vere Queckett
-  1949 21 November. Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford Upon Avon, England  
***The Schoolmistress***  
CR as The Hon. Vere Queckett  
Includes newspaper clipping of review.



1950

1 February. Saville Theatre, London

***The Schoolmistress***

CR as Miss Dyott's husband

2 copies. One includes ticket for 2 February, glued in.



1950

6 November. New Nixon Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

***The Relapse, or Virtue in Danger.***

CR directing and starring as Sir Novelty Fashion/Lord Foppington.

1 flyer only.



1952

24 March. Coronet Theatre, New York, USA

***Jane***/Somerset Maugham.

CR directed performance.



1952

2 June. Theatre Royale, Newcastle upon Tyne, England

Tennent Productions presents

***The Millionairess*** / Bernard Shaw

CR as Adrian Blenderland

Robert Helpmann appears as The Doctor



1952

9 June. Manchester, UK – The Opera House

***The Millionairess***

CR as Adrian Blenderland



1952

27 June. New Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London, England, Newcastle upon Tyne, England

Tennent Productions presents

***The Millionairess*** / Bernard Shaw

CR as Adrian Blenderland

Robert Helpmann appears as The Doctor

2 copies.

Includes pages 9-18 of unknown magazine with review and photographs of performance.



1953

16 March. Ethel Barrymore Theatre, New York, USA

***Misalliance***

Directed by CR

Cover and back sheet detached from rest of program



1953

6 April . His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, Scotpand

***High Spirits***

CR in sketches

-  1953 20 April. Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, England  
**High Spirits – A Revue**  
CR in 9 sketches
-  1953 15 May, The London Hippodrome, London, England  
**High Spirits – A Revue**  
CR in sketches  
6 copies, plus flyer plus ticket for Saturday June 20.
-  1953 21 December. Imperial Theatre, New York, USA  
John Murray Anderson's **Almanac**  
Sketches acted and directed by CR
-  1954 17 August. Philharmonic Auditorium, Los Angeles, USA  
**Peter Pan**  
CR as Mr Darling & Captain Hook.
-  1954 20 October. Winter Garden, New York, USA  
**Peter Pan**  
CR as Mr Darling & Captain Hook.  
Program as part of Playgoer Magazine
-  1955 21 February. Winter Garden, New York, USA  
**Peter Pan**  
CR as Mr Darling & Captain Hook
-  1955 28 March. Adelphi Theatre and American National Theatre and Academy. New York, USA  
**The ANTA Album 1955**  
presented by ANTA originating live from Adelphi Theatre New York City, Closed Circuit telecast through the facilities of the Dumont Television Network.  
CR as Master of Ceremonies.
-  1956 29 October. Henry Miller's Theatre, New York, USA  
**The Reluctant Debutante**  
Directed by CR  
Program as part of the *Playbill Magazine* dated 29 October, 1956.
-  1956 31 December. Metropolitan Opera, New York, USA  
**La Perichole.** Music by Offenbach  
Cyril Ritchard as Don Andres, Viceroy of Peru  
Staged and directed by CR.
-  1957 March 18. . Booth Theatre, New York  
**Visit to a Small Planet**

Cyril Ritchard as Kreton  
Directed by CR  
Also *Playbill Magazine* program dated 8 April 1957  
Also *Playbill Magazine* program dated 9 September 1957  
Also flyer from *Curtain Time*, magazine of the Fireside Theatre, NY



1957

5 April. N.Y. Metropolitan Opera, New York, USA  
***La Perichole***. Music by Offenbach  
CR as Don Andres, Viceroy of Peru  
Staged and directed by CR



1957

July. *Theatre Arts*, vol. XL1, No.7. pp. 28-29, 90-91  
“**Visit with a Large Meteor**”(magazine article).  
CR interviewed by Joseph Carroll



1958

20 May. Huntington Hartford Theatre, Hollywood , Los Angeles, USA  
***Visit to a Small Planet***  
CR as Kreton  
Directed by CR



[1957/8?

][Souvenir Program for } ***Visit to a Small Planet*** tour



1958

8 December. Longacre Theatre, New York, USA  
***The Pleasure of his Company***  
CR plays Biddeford Poole and is director.



1959

9 February. Longacre Theatre, New York , USA  
***The pleasure of his company***  
CR plays Biddeford Poole and is director



1959

9 March. Henry Miller’s Theatre, New York, USA  
***Look After Lulu***  
Directed by CR



1959

1 June. Longacre Theatre, New York , USA  
***The Pleasure of his Company***  
CR plays Biddeford Poole  
*Playbill magazine* dated 1 June 1959



1960

29 February. Biltmore Theatre, Los Angeles, USA  
***The Pleasure of His Company***  
CR is director



1960

April. *Theatre Arts*, vol. XLIV, No.4. pp. 21-52  
***The Pleasure of His Company*** – Full Text of Play  
CR as Biddeford Poole.



1960

25 April. Erlanger Theatre, Chicago, USA  
***The Pleasure of His Company***  
CR is director  
Flyer only.  
Also single page ( possibly from Playbill Magazine, listing cast and saying  
“Opened Monday November 23 1959 at the Forest Theatre, Philadelphia, and  
closed May 28, 1960 at the Erlanger, Chicago, Ill.” Autographed by CR



1960

23 October. Fireside Theatre, New York, USA  
*Curtain Time* (official pub of Fireside Theatre)  
4 page promotional pamphlet for published copy of play for Fireside Theatre  
***The Pleasure of His Company***  
CR as Biddeford Poole  
Text with several pictures from production.



1960

11 November. Metropolitan Opera, New York, USA  
***Le Nozze di Figaro***  
Staged by CR.



1961

11 October. Longacre Theatre, New York, USA  
***Everybody Loves Opal***  
Directed by CR



1961

April Martin Beck Theatre, New York. USA  
***Happiest Girl in the World***  
CR stars and directs  
Program includes a comic poem by “YIP” Harburg called “A Lyric Cyric Pane Gyric  
–Thoughts on Cyril Ritchard” which is a witty summary of CR’s approach to  
theatre. Also there is an inlaid portfolio of photographs taken in rehearsal in which  
CR figures prominently. The cut-out cover features a drawing of a wild-eyed CR  
surveying co-star Janice Rule.



1962

8 January. The Music Box, New York, USA  
***Romulus***  
CR as Romulus  
2 copies.



1962

3-4 April . New York and Washington area  
TV Theater Festival of Performing Arts  
CR performs ***An intimate revue*** with Hermione Baddeley

CR as Osgood Fielding, Jr.  
(Plus cut out newspaper ad from local paper)



1963

12 March. 54<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre, New York. USA

***Too True to be Good***

CR as Colonel Tallboys

Single sheet program

Also one copy in Playbill dated 20 May 1963.



1963

5 May. Majestic Theatre, New York, USA

***Actors Equity Golden Anniversary Show,***

for the benefit of the Museum of the City of New York.

CR as Master of Ceremonies.



1963

4 November. Ethel Barrymore Theatre, New York, USA

***The Irregular Verb to Love***

CR as Felix Rankin

Directed by CR

*Playbill Magazine* dated 4 November 1963



1965

19 April. O'Keefe Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto, Canada

***The Roar of the Greasepaint***

CR as Sir



1965

June. Sam S. Shubert Theatre, New York, USA

***The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd***

CR as Sir

June edition of *Playbill Magazine*



1967

Stratford, Connecticut

The American Shakespeare Festival Theatre

***A Midsummer Night's Dream***

Directed by CR, with CR alternating in roles of Bottom, Oberon and Pyramus.



1971

17 April. Metropolitan Opera House, New York, USA

***Contes d'Hoffman***

Staged and choreographed by CR.

*1 program*



1972

17 January. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. USA

***Sugar***

CR as Osgood Fielding Jr

includes newspaper clipping of advertisement and flyer.



1972

June. Majestic Theatre, New York, USA

***Sugar***

CR as Osgood Fielding Jr.

*Playbill* Magazine dated June 1972.



1973

May. Majestic Theatre, New York, USA

***Sugar***

CR as Osgood Fielding Jr.

Signed copy by CR and Tony Roberts

*Playbill* Magazine dated May 1973.



1975

13 November. St. James Theatre, New York, USA

***Musical Jubilee – Revue***

Revue – CR in sketches

Also one copy of souvenir program



1976

November. *After Dark*,(magazine) vol.9, no.7. pp. 30-34.

**“Well Shiver Me Timbers, it’s Cyril Ritchard”** ( magazine article)

By Ernest Thompson



1977

15 May. Broadway Theatre, New York, USA

Ethel Merman and Mary Martin together on Broadway

CR Narrator

## Other items



1954

25 December . New York Public Library Collection, Lincoln Centre, New York, USA

***Mary Martin and Cyril Ritchard***

Postcard of drawing by Albert Frueh published in *New Yorker*, December 25, 1954



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