

Theatre Projects Manitoba and Walk&Talk Theatre Company presents

END OF THE LINE

1 BIRTHDAY.

8 LIVES.

1.6 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER.



Created by **Walk&Talk Theatre Company**
Written by **BEN TOWNSLEY**, Music/Lyrics by **DUNCAN COX**,
Movement Score by **TANNER MANSON**



WELCOME TO THEATRE PROJECTS MANITOBA AND WALK&TALK THEATRE CO.

The creation of End of the Line began with a place: Heart City. A fictional coastal community destroyed by a Flood. And from the seed of that city, the rest of the show took shape. After half a decade of workshops and rewrites, Heart City remains unchanged.

It can be easy to forget that Winnipeg, this place we get to call our home, is as much a player in our lives as we are. This land and the waters that flow over it are the seeds of a story that we've been telling for thousands of years. It hasn't always been a happy story. But we are lucky have a chance to join the narrative.

This production has been workshopped, rehearsed and now presented in the heart of downtown Winnipeg on Treaty One Territory. Winnipeg is a city that knows flooding—that sits at the crossroads of two rivers and in the heart of the Hudson Bay Drainage basin—the largest ocean watershed in Canada. This watershed encompasses all the territory we know as Manitoba including Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba, the territory of Treaties One, Two, Three, Four and Five, the Seal River Watershed, and Shoal Lake 40 First Nation where we get our water.

We are grateful to all the people of these lands, the Anishinaabeg, Ininew, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene and the Red River Métis Nation, and especially to the Sayisi Dene, Northlands Denesuline First Nation, Barren Lands First Nation and O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation and all others who work to conserve and restore the health and vitality of these lands and waters.

Because there are no songs to sing, no steps to dance, and no stories to tell, without a place to share them.



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W&T TEAM

Duncan Cox Co-Founding Artistic Producers / Creative Collaborator

Tanner Manson Co-Founding Artistic Producers / Creative Collaborator

Ben Townsley Co-Founding Artistic Producers / Creative Collaborator

EMAIL walktalktheatrecompany@gmail.com

WEBSITE walktalktheatrecompany.com

MESSAGE FROM TPM'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Hello and Welcome to TPM's 2023/24 season closer: the long-awaited WORLD PREMIERE of *End of the Line*!

This co-production is a significant bite for both TPM and W&T, but taking big, creatively generous risks is TPM's signature jam and I am honoured to be able to leap with this fledgling company and help get their joyful project across the finish line and onto the stage in all its huge glory!

TPM commissioned this piece in 2019 (before my time in the AD chair) and we have been supporting its development over the years. Through all that time and work TPM has continued to back this project because we see it as an obvious investment in new artistic voices in our community.

At a time when theatres continue to feel their losses and we are all still figuring out what's next, the sheer scale and creative optimism of this piece stands as a radical act of hope for the future of theatre and an important opportunity for the next generation of theatre artists in Manitoba.

And I must say a big thank you to MAP for being development partners throughout the journey, and to Brian Drader specifically for your tireless dramaturgical support. We couldn't have gotten to this point without your expertise and generous enthusiasm.

It feels like a real triumph for live theatre that, in these very uncertain and often uninspiring times, three tiny arts orgs (TPM, W&T, and MAP) could band together over many years and bring this ambitious celebration of life to the stage!

I hope from where you're sitting it all feels worth it! I hope you find yourself swept up into the lives of Heart City, that you remember that the process of becoming you is a life-long quest, and then leave the theatre humming a tune about a squirrel's evolutionary advantages.

In short, I hope it's an unforgettable hell of a run!

Bring on the Flood!

Suzie Martin, Artistic Director TPM

The Evolution of a Show

It's a curious thing working on a project like this for so long. You develop a language, an understanding, and a deep love that have all held over from a time before the flood of post-pandemic life became our reality. Looking at the show, we're reminded how times have changed, how much life has transpired since we began, and just how much has been brought from point A to point Z with every single move informing the end result. It's true you get to where you're going from where you've been.

When we think about growing up, we often imagine children like 8-year-old Debbie Gellar in the show, but the reality is that we as people never stop growing! Through all of our problem solving we're still evolving, adapting, and trying to keep up. It is truly remarkable growing up with your best friends and collectively co-parenting a show of this scale. But it's far beyond just the three of us now and it has been for some time. It's moving faster than we know and we wouldn't have stood a chance without the help of our incredible friends and collaborators.

The lessons we've taken from our cast, our band, our creative and production teams, and from each other, have shaped the piece in more ways than any of us could count. But beyond that, the effect that these folks have had on us as individuals is profound. It is a very special feeling when someone shares their heart and soul with you and Walk&Talk Theatre has been on the receiving end of that in droves. We could not be more thankful. This has truly been an unforgettable hell of a run!

When the house lights come up and the show is over, our birthday wish for you is this: At the End of the Line, we hope you have the feeling that you've made your lifetime shine.

The Walk&Talk Lads 



THE ROAD TO *END OF THE LINE*

End of the Line was first conceived back in 2018 after the first run of Walk&Talk's *The Ballad of Johnny Boy* in the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. After the first of many workshops in conjunction with MAP, we presented excerpts from *End of the Line* at the Prairie Theatre Exchange Festival of New Works in 2019 and later that year after further development through a residency at the IISD-ELA, we began talks with Theatre Projects Manitoba resulting in an official commission of the piece.

"Dream Big!" are the words we were sent off with from then Artistic Director of TPM, Ardith Boxall. And dream we did. Limitless possibilities, endless characters, and boundary-less music were brought to life before we, along with the rest of the world, were hit with a set back of sorts at the start of 2020 which halted the project for a time.

As 2020 drew to a close Ben re-envisioned the initial concepts we'd been working with and began writing a series of short stories centered around a contemporary flood mythology. At the start of 2021 Duncan wrote and recorded 11 songs in two weeks based on prompts in the stories. Joined by some near and dear friends, we had our first reading over Zoom in February of 2021. This was followed by Music Workshop and a Movement Workshop in the summer/fall where we began working with our current cast/band.

With workshop feedback securely in place we started splitting stories into scenes and arranging lead sheets into scores, presenting a full Staged Reading/Sing-Through at the West End Cultural Centre in April of 2022. A year later, MAP hosted another reading of the script for a fresh perspective and soon after we held a workshop week focusing on movement explorations.

2024 shook things up big time with a total strip down and recreation of the script and score as we finalized production drafts. Cue the start of rehearsals. To sum it up, this piece has been crafted through years of generous collaboration with many artists, including:

Paul De Gurse, Brendan Thompson, Josh Bellan, Matt Kozicki, Hera Nalam, Kamal Chioua, Montana Lehmann, Cuinn Joseph, Victoria Hill, Jean van der Merwe, Brian Drader, Ardith Boxall, Suzie Martin, Andraea Sartison, Reena Jolly, Eric Blais, Tom Soares, Jane Testar, Toby Hughes, Duchess Cayetano, Grant Burr, Devin Lowry, Ben Krawchuk, Simon Miron, Emily Solstice Tait, Rayna Masterton, Claire Borody, Maddy Wery and David Guezen.





NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In an early workshop of *End of the Line* playwright Ben Townsley was asked “in the play, why does the world end?” and he answered “because that’s what worlds do”. I wrote this at the front of my director’s journal and have reread his answer many times throughout the following years that this show unfolded. Worlds end. Lives are brief. But this impending doom shouldn’t stop us from seeking joy, love and celebration. In fact, it should propel us to look both within, and outward to our community to find what makes our “lifetime shine”.

Tonight you are part of our community, our companions in this teeter-totter world, our party guests. I hope this show, and its beautiful ensemble who love and create ferociously, delight your inner 8 year-old and inspire you to smell the roses and ride the wave.

Andraea Sartison, Director



MaY 11 | 7:30 pM | MaY 12 | 2:00 pM
23 Mai | 19h30 | 24 Mai | 14h00

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Created by Walk&Talk Theatre Company

Written by Ben Townsley

Music/Lyrics by Duncan Cox

Movement Score by Tanner Manson

Director..... Andraea Sartison
Music Director & Band Leader..... Paul De Gurse
Choreographer Tanner Manson
Composition & Arrangement Duncan Cox
Set/Lighting Designer Kerem Çetinel
Costume Designer..... Daina Leitold
Assistant Costume Designer..... Kara Joseph
Assistant Set/Lighting Designer..... Julia Anderson
Stage Manager Karyn Kumhyr
Apprentice Assistant Stage Manager..... Emily Solstice Tait
Dramaturg Brian Drader

Debbie Geller Victoria Emilie Hill
Miles Dufrey Jean van der Merwe
Jackson Murray Kamal Chioua
Oliver Wild Ben Townsley
Wade Fitzpatrick..... Tanner Manson
Bethany Dubois Hera Nalam
Lance Brooks Duncan Cox
Cindy Chase Montana Lehmann
Standby..... Devin Lowry

Musician- Bass Matthew Kozicki
Musician Guitar Josh Bellan
Musician Percussion Brendan Thompson

Production Manager Katherine Johnston
Head Carpenter Keith Damboise
Carpenter Josh Gehman
Costume Builders Kara Joseph, Sandra Willey
Additional Sewer Kevin Maguire
Scenic Artist Melissa Smigelski
Props Coordinator TL Kosinski
Lighting Technician Evan King
Audio Technician..... Jessica Rose
Audio Consultant..... Chris Coyne
End of the Line Title Graphic..... Danielle Friesen

END OF THE LINE IS 2HRS AND 20MINS INCLUDING ONE 15MIN INTERMISSION

END
OF THE
LINE



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

A Birthday Party for Ghosts
Before the Flood
The Rock, Paper, Scissors Tourney of '96
Seabreeze Ease
Lost at Sea
Nobody Told Me
Evolution of Life Preprise
Oracle Pt.1
Oracle Pt.2

ACT II

Seabreeze Repreeze
Built a Boat (Reprise)
Bake This, Bake This Cake
Drowning in Me
Adrift
The Evolution of Life
The Last Dance
The Flood

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1 for \$5

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Duncan Cox

*Composer, Lyricist,
Arranger,
Orchestrator,
Co-Writer, Lance
Brooks, Understudy
Miles Duffrey*

Duncan Cox is an actor/musician/creator with an intense drive and vision which he channels into artistic output.

While a co-founder of Walk&Talk Theatre, he continues to work regularly with the city's various theatre companies in turn (MTYP, Rainbow Stage, RMTC, PTE, One Trunk, Green Kids). He is immensely proud of his recently premiered new work *Afterlight*, co-written by Sharon Bajer. *End of the Line* and *Afterlight* were often side by side on the writing desk and it feels fantastic to finally be mounting this beast! Here's hoping we catch a good wave and you enjoy the ride!



Ben Townsley

*Playwright, Oliver
Wild, Understudy
Bethany Dubois*

Ben Townsley is a creator, performer and singer with a love of language, music and the absurd. Ben is a big believer in the idea of "accessibly deep theatre" and creates work that is both fun and raucous, as well as intricate and heartfelt. His work features a marriage of magic and the mundane in the pursuit of reimagining our "modern mythology."

From composers in space to a band at the bottom of the sea, Ben is always looking for new ways to tell old stories.



Tanner Manson

*Choreographer,
Wade Fitzpatrick*

Tanner Manson (he/him) is a queer theatre/dance artist specializing in devised performance creation, physical theatre & playwriting. His work explores big questions about our tiny world, often dancing around philosophical quandaries and love. He is passionate about nurturing relationships & long term collaboration while creating new & exciting work. He does a little bit of everything and loves everything a lot: writing, creating, facilitating, directing, teaching, producing, performing, administration, and choreographing!

Tanner is thankful to have worked in these various disciplines with some awesome companies including: Theatre Projects Manitoba, One Trunk Theatre, Weather Parade Dance Theatre, Young Lungs Dance Exchange, Shakespeare in the Ruins, Fete Jockey Events, and of course, Walk&Talk which he co-runs with Dunc and Benny. Much love to the constellation of artists who have been a part of "End of the Line" over the last 6ish years.



Kamal Chioua

Jackson Murray

Kamal Chioua has been dreaming of doing this show ever since the first workshop of End of The Line and he is excited to finally bring it to life. A recent graduate from The University of Winnipeg and coming off two years of The Village Conservatory, Kamal is excited to keep exploring the world of theatre. Kamal Would like to thank his parents and Granny for their never ending support. You can see Kamal next in late-night shawarma at Aladdin's. Lastly he dedicates Sea Breeze Ease to his big brother Zach. Summer fun baby!

Theatre (Selected): CLUE (RMTC, The Grand Theatre) RENT, The Wizard of Oz (Rainbow Stage); The Velveteen Rabbit (MTYP); School of Rock, Reefer Madness (WST).



Victoria Emilie Hill

Debbie Geller

Victoria Emilie Hill (she/they) is a queer creator, mover, facilitator and actor based in Treaty 1 Territory and is excited about work that focuses on movement and the body as a place we hold and tell stories. She has trained in Viewpoints, Grotowski, Suzuki, and Contact Improvisation and has worked as a performer, dancer, playwright, and facilitator for various companies in Winnipeg.

Recently, Victoria participated in a Live Art Building residency in New York at Arts Letters & Numbers, played Olivia in SIR's production of 12th Night, and has been doing focused training in Contact Improvisation in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Montreal, and on Lasqueti Island at Leviathan Studio. When not arting around, Victoria can be found riding bikes and climbing walls.



Devin Lowry

Standby; Oliver Wild, Lance Brooks, Wade Fitzpatrick, Jackson Murray

Devin is ecstatic to be a part of 'End Of The Line'!

Originally from Darlingford, MB; Devin is a graduate of The University of Winnipeg Theatre and Film Honours Program in 2019 and alumnus of The Village Conservatory in 2021. Recent performance credits include: 'Pool, No Water' (10...9...8...Productions) 'The Prom' (Dry Cold Productions) 'FAME: The Musical' (WST); 'The Hockey Sweater' (Rainbow); Inhibition Exhibition (Village Conservatory); Middletown, A Midsummer Nights Dream, Fragile Things, You Are (T)here (UofW). He would like to recognize that he would not be here following his passion without the support of his friends and family.



Montana Lehmann

*Cindy Chase,
Understudy Debbie
Gellar*

Montana Lehmann is an actor and theatre lover, born and raised in Winnipeg Manitoba, Treaty 1 Territory. Since graduating theatre school from Studio 58 (Vancouver) her recent credits include: 'Cross stitching' in Her Living Room and 'Escaping All 8 Rooms' at The Real Escape. Special thanks to Tanner, Ben, Duncan, Hera, Kamal, Devin, Victoria and Jean for riding this wave with her. <3



Jean van der Merwe

Miles Duffrey

Jean van der Merwe is a queer, non-binary performer based in Winnipeg on Treaty 1 territory. They are a graduate of the University of Manitoba, where they obtained both an Undergraduate Degree, and a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Music, Vocal Performance.

Jean has performed in shows such as Winnipeg Studio Theatre's production of Fame (Nick Piazza), and most recently in Rainbow Stage's 2023 productions of Rent (Ensemble) and The Little Mermaid (Swing). When not performing, they can be found playing D&D with friends, cuddling with their cat Lilith, or watering their house-plants (of which they have far too many).



Hera Nalam

*Bethany Dubois,
Understudy Cindy
Chase*

Born and raised in the Philippines, Hera Nalam (she/they) first came to Treaty One Territory in the year 2011 when she was 16 years old. Ever since then she has immersed herself in the local creative platforms all over Winnipeg from music, theatre, film and fashion and is making waves as a true inter-disciplinary artist.

Hera attended the University of Winnipeg and acquired her Bachelor of Arts with Honours for Theatre and Film Performance in 2019. Coming out of University, she was quick to book performances all over the city of Winnipeg. She first appeared in local theatre productions like Timon of Athens (Shakespeare in the Ruins 2018) and Torn Through Time (Manitoba Theatre for Young People 2019), Romeo & Juliet (Pocket Frock 2020) and QUEST (Meraki Theatre Productions 2019), A Dance to the End of the World (Prairie Theatre Exchange 2022), Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare in the Ruins 2022), The Three Musketeers (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre 2022), Twelfth Night (Shakespeare in the Ruins 2023) The Last Garden (Walk&Talk Theatre 2023), Everything Has Disappeared (UNIT Productions/Mammilian Driving Reflex 2024).



**Andraea
Sartison**
Director

Andraea Sartison is a director, producer and playwright. She is the Co-Artistic Producer of One Trunk Theatre together with Gwen Collins, and a proud member of the MAP/PTE playwrights unit. She is grateful to TPM for all of the opportunities to collaborate throughout her career (Crazy Bone, Red Earth, I Dream of Diesel and as Co-Architect of the award winning Chautauqua with Ardlith Boxall). Offstage Andraea is the co-owner of Fête Jockey Events with Jennie O- awarded best small business in Manitoba in 2022, by Travel Manitoba and Tourism Winnipeg. Heya Jordan Boys!



Paul De Gurse
*Music Director,
Band Leader & Keys*

Paul De Gurse is equally thrilled to be working closely with Walk & Talk again and to be working with TPM for the first time.

Recently he has appeared on Winnipeg stages for the world premier of both Afterlight and Outside Joke: Bigger Dickens Energy, as well as traveling to Halifax's Neptune Theatre as music director for Billy Elliot The Musical. Paul runs the event band Prairie Hearts, and is the Managing Director the the Village Conservatory for Music Theatre, an arts education organization with a focus on creating new work located in Winnipeg. This show and all shows are for Tom.



Kerem Çetinel
*Lighting & Set
Designer*

Kerem's selected design credits include: Monster (Kill Your Television Theatre), Faithless (OYR & Azimuth Theatre), Death and the Maiden (Globe Theatre), Bash'D! (Theatre Passe Muraille), A Streetcar Named Desire (Bluebridge Repertory Theatre), The Trespassers (Belfry Theatre & Vancouver Playhouse), The Kite Runner (Theatre Calgary & Citadel Theatre), The Last Voyage of Donald Crowhurst (GRT & ATP), Fortune Falls (Catalyst Theatre), Anna Karenina (National Theatre of Turkey), Ezel Bahar (National Ballet of Turkey) and Biz (Voicing the Resistance Festival - Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin).

Kerem is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada and has an MFA Theatre Design degree from University of Alberta.



**Julia
Anderson**
*Lighting & Set
Assistant*

Julia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Design for Theatre and Film at University of Winnipeg, was a part of the inaugural year of The Village Conservatory and is in the 2023/24 Creative Manitoba Mentorship Program. Some of her recent works include Apprentice Set & Costume Designer on Clue (Royal MTC); Scenic Designer on From Up Here (University of Winnipeg); Design Assistant on A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (DryCold) and on Twelfth Night (SIR); Associate Designer on The Arsonists and Something Rotten (MTYP).



Daina Leitold
Costume Designer

Favourite costume design credits: Red Earth* (One Trunk Theatre & TPM), among men (RMTC/TPM), RENT (Rainbow), Fame (WST), Twelfth Night, Hamlet and Timon of Athens (SIR), Narrow Bridge (WJT), Awaken (Zone41 and SIR), Glad To Be Here and Edward II (TBTR), The Cherry Orchard (TBTR and Echo Theatre).

*Evie Award for Outstanding Production Design.

Upcoming: Shifting Gears - Bike and Circuses 2024 (Green Kids Inc.) – Come check us out this August at Whittier Park!



Kara Joseph
*Costume Design
Assistant, Costume
Builder*

Kara Joseph (she/her) is a performer, creator and arts manager based in Winnipeg. A wearer of many hats, Kara has worked in many artistic roles including performer, musician, director, costume designer and podcast host. In these diverse roles, Kara wholeheartedly dedicates herself to crafting art that is welcoming and accessible, embracing artists and audiences alike. Kara's contributions to the arts were recently recognized with the inaugural Cherry Karpyslin Arts Management Prize. Recent credits include Narnia (Bad Hats Theatre), Rainbow Speaks (Rainbow Stage), RENT (Rainbow Stage), Breaking Up With Me (JHG Creative) and Alice in Wonderland (Bad Hats Theatre).



Karyn Kumhyr
Stage Manager

Karyn's recent shows in Winnipeg include Romeo and Juliet (RWB), Feast (PTE), Rent (Rainbow Stage), The Secret to Good Tea, Three Musketeers (RMTC), and Pandora (SIR). She has worked in theatres across Canada with diverse highlights including the Shaw Festival, Charlottetown Festival, Atlantic Theatre Festival, CanStage, Drayton, Grand Theatre, Citadel, ATP, Ship's Company Theatre, and flying shows into remote communities on a Twin Otter float plane!



**Emily Solstice
Tait**
*Apprentice
Assistant Stage
Manager*

Emily Solstice Tait's practice is rooted in contemporary dance but happily crosses into theatre, stage management and film. She is of mixed settler and Anishinaabe ancestry (Urban member of Berens River First Nation). Her dances have been performed at The Manitoba Museum, The Forks National Historic Site, and along the shores of Lake Winnipeg. As an ASM she has sneakily caught hats on stage (RMTC The Three Musketeers) and she has called a dance show or two, (or ten), over the years. She hopes the sounds, sights, and big feelings of End of the Line bring you joy.



Brendan Thompson

Percussion

Percussionist Brendan Thompson is a highly active performer throughout Manitoba. An enthusiast of musical theatre, Brendan has been the pit drummer/percussionist for over 30 musical theatre productions with companies such as Rainbow Stage, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Dry Cold Productions, Winnipeg Studio Theatre, and Walk&Talk Theatre Company. He performs regularly with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, including his role as the Acting Principal Timpanist for the 2014/15 season. In addition, Brendan has performed with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Manitoba Opera, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. With a strong interest in music education, Brendan currently teaches as a sessional instructor at both Brandon University and the Canadian Mennonite University.



Josh Bellan

Guitar

Josh is a Graduate of the University of Manitoba Faculty of Music. As a Musician Josh's previous credits include Afterlight (The Keep & Walk&Talk), Rent, Hockey Sweater (Rainbow Stage) Mixtapes From My Mom (RMTC). Acting credits include The Little Mermaid, Strike, South Pacific (Rainbow Stage), Kiss of The Spiderwoman (Dry Cold), Fame, Reefer Madness, American Idiot (WST), Breaking Up With Me (JHG). Upcoming Josh will be acting in Merrily We Roll Along with Dry Cold Productions running May 22 – 26 at Tom Hendry Warehouse.



Matt Kozicki

Bass

Matt Kozicki is a freelance bassist, composer, and music educator from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Matt graduated from Brandon University in February 2020 with a Bachelor of Music and a major in Jazz Performance. Since graduating, he has collaborated with many members of the diverse Manitoba music scene, playing jazz, musical theatre, classical, rock, pop, country, R&B, and more. He regularly works with a variety of artists and collectives, including Ila Barker, Mitchell Makoons, SanCarlos, the Graydon Cramer Band, the Sean Taylor Band, Walk & Talk Theatre Company, Diogo Peixoto, Emmanuel Bach, Matthew Steckler, and others. He has performed across Canada and the United States, and as far as Sydney, Australia. Matt also teaches privately and regularly runs clinics in schools across the province.

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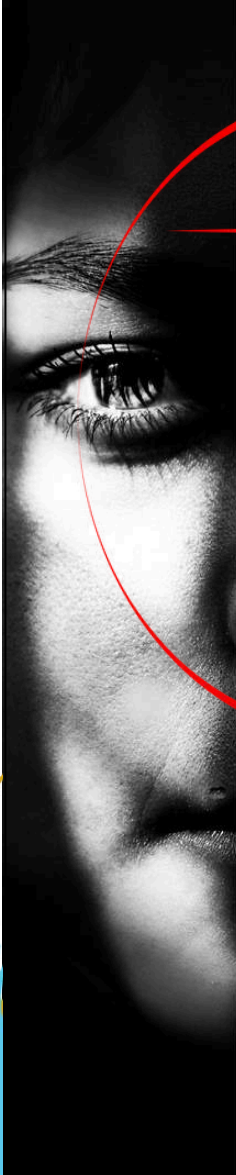
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