

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Alamgir Kabir Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Alamgir Kabir Chalachchitra Kendra
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: December 26
Time: 5pm



Architectural Exhibition
Title: Nature is...
Artist: Rafiq Azam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R 279old, Dhanmondi
Date: December 15-26
Time: 12pm-8pm



Print Makers' Exhibition
Organiser: Shilpangan
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: December 25-January 8
Time: 12pm-8pm



Nikita Mikhailov Retrospective
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with RCSC
Venue: Auditorium, RCSC, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: December 22-24



A passion for notes and sounds

In conversation with Alam Khan

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

A talented composer, a trendsetter, and an instrumentalist: simply put -- a gem in the field of music. Yes, we are talking about the reputed music director and composer Alam Khan.

With his immense passion for musical notes and sounds, Khan has managed to let soulful music glide into our lives. So what made him fall in love with music? "I have never dwelt on this question before, but now that you ask me, I think I was always in love with music," recalls Khan.

Reminiscing on his childhood days, he continues, "I was drawn to different sorts of cultural programmes since I was just six or seven. Every year after my annual exam and during my winter vacation I used to visit my maternal and paternal grandfather's house in the villages of Sirajganj and Tangail. There I'd witness a variety of cultural activities like 'jatra,' 'pala gaan' and what not. I should also mention a neighbour of mine called Ratan bhai, when we lived in Azimpur colony. He had a selection of instruments. I used to go to his house almost every day just to watch him rehearse. Ratan somehow understood how much I adored music and started teaching me. So you may say that he was my first guru. Then there was a street musician named Altaf. He was my pied piper of Hamelin as I used to follow him everywhere, entranced by his music."

Later on in life, Alam Khan took lessons from professional and renowned artistes like Nani Chatterjee and Karim Shahabuddin. Khan along with his friends also formed an orchestra group called the "Ritu Orchestra Group".

Did fame knock on his door from that moment onwards? Smiling, the renowned music director continues, "I auditioned on TV and radio and got rejected, security refused to let me in at FDC the first time. I got my first break in a stage play called 'Bharate Bari,' then I did some music direction for TV and finally films. The first film featuring music by me was 'Kaanch Kata Heerey' and then, as they say, the rest is history."

Some of his personal favourites are "Orey neel doriya," "Ami rajshingandha," "Dak dhaehe Doya amarey" and "Tumi jekhaney ami shekhaney." His upcoming projects include music for movies -- "Eki Jadu Kotla" and "Ek Buk Bhalobasha," which were released this Eid. Alam Khan has managed to surpass everyone in terms of versatility and his music has left a magical impression on people of all ages and eras. His creations are a perfect blend of vitality and rhythmic serenity, truly reflecting his modest personality. He has composed around 2000 songs and provided music direction to around 300 films. Alam Khan can be credited for giving the audience something new all the time.

The writer is a freelance contributor

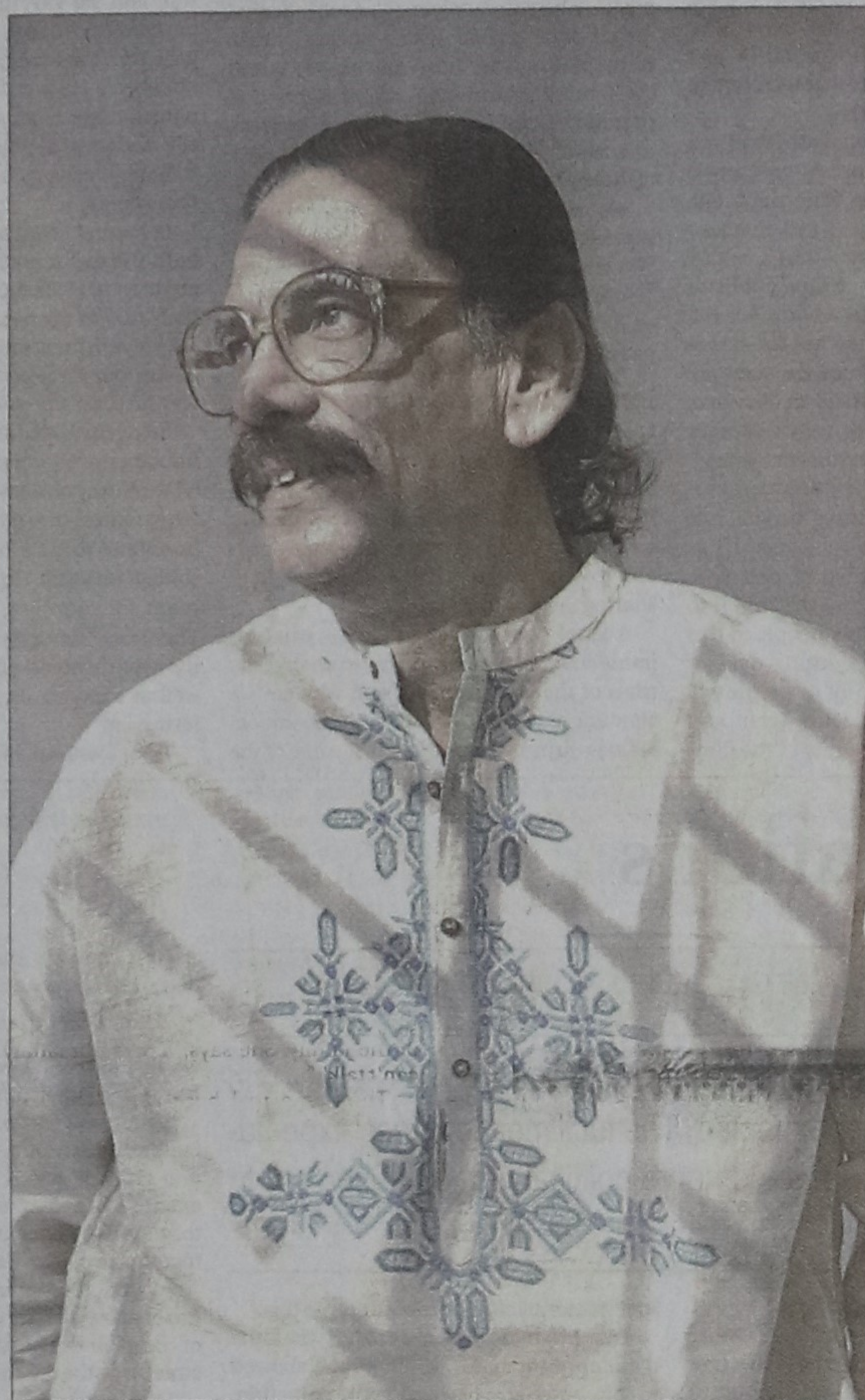


PHOTO: MUMIT M

The Wrestler Mickey Rourke's amazing comeback

Can Mickey Rourke make one of the comebacks of modern movie history, bagging a Best Actor Oscar for his role as a fallen fighter in "The Wrestler"? Don't bet against it after watching Darren Aronofsky's harrowing drama, which took top awards on the autumn festival circuit.

Rourke -- whose bad-boy existence has fed tabloids for the best part of two decades -- confronts the part of fallen 1980s ring legend Randy "The Ram" Robinson, getting by on a diet of painkillers and steroids and at one point lamenting: "I'm an old broken-down piece of meat."

Wrestling traditionally presents itself as prime-time pantomime; in contrast Aronofsky takes a naturalistic, semi-documentary stance, revealing a contrived theatre of gore, replete with staple guns, barbed wire and self-cutting as stage props.

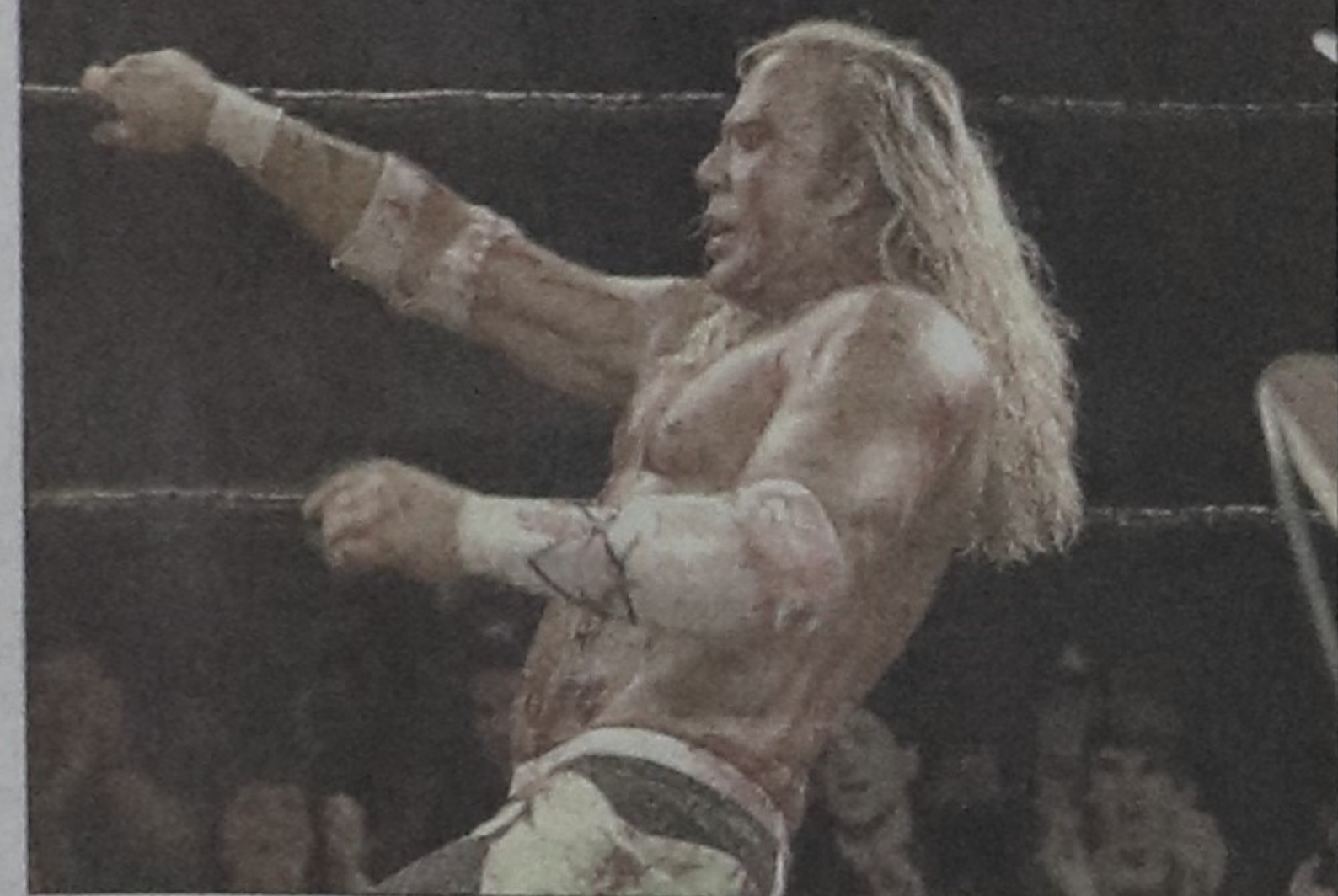
Despite acknowledgment, even reverence, from fellow ring stars, Robinson looks toward dancer Cassidy (Marisa Tomei), also engaged in a world of fakery, for solace; and his estranged student daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) for reconciliation.

But he is a relic fighting against time and his attraction to the limelight, as primitive and retro as his

bleach-yellow scrag of hair or the 1980s bouffant rock that soundtracks the drama.

Photography sets the narrative within a series of interiors -- the inside of trailer homes and locker rooms,

Toward the movie's end there are a



Mickey Rourke in "The Wrestler".

supermarkets and clubs -- to emphasise how Robinson is trapped in his addiction to the limelight. When the drama does switch to exteriors, it is

into a chilly landscape washed in grey hues and slab browns. Rarely does Aronofsky -- himself making a minor comeback after "The Fountain" (2006) -- allow the camera to go wide.

Of course it's easy to say that Rourke is simply building on his own life experiences for the role (a seasoned boxer himself, he has referenced his wild times during publicity junkets for the movie).

But that notion suggests Rourke is somehow channelling and not acting; and with "The Wrestler" he draws from Robinson fragility and vulnerability, even tenderness, that can only provoke a sympathetic wince from audiences.

For Rourke has made a comeback with serious Oscar beef. And in an awards season largely devoid of last year's clutch of masculine features -- "No Country For Old Men," "There Will Be Blood," "Eastern Promises" -- his performance sets him well apart from rival nominees. Whether that will help him with awards voters is another issue.

As movie resurrections go, Rourke's performance is up there with Oscar-nominee John Travolta's turn in the higher-profile "Pulp Fiction" (1994), which helped parlay his then-stranded career into longer-term gains. Here's hoping Rourke can do similar.

Source: CNN

TV Watch

Abdul Jabbar and Fazal-e-Khuda on Gaanalap

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Tonight's episode of musical programme "Gaanalap" features renowned artiste Abdul Jabbar and lyricist Fazal-e-Khuda. The singer will reminisce his Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra days and render some of the memorable songs penned by Fazal.

Hosted by singer Naqib Khan, "Gaanalap" is aired on Tuesdays at 9:05 pm. The programme is produced by Nahid Ahmed Biplob.



Abdul Jabbar (left) with Naqib Khan (right) and Fazal-e-Khuda on tonight's "Gaanalap".

Khudey Gaanraj on Channel i tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Musical talent-hunt for children "Meridian-Channel i Khudey Gaanraj '08" is on full swing. After months of hard work and highly competitive rounds, the contest is nearing its end with only 12 contestants -- Asha, Aloka, Imran, Jewel, Kabi, Niloy, Parshi, Shoron, Tuba, Sodyo, Uday and Jhuma. Announcement of the best young singer is only a few episodes away. Channel i will telecast



The remaining 12 contestants of "Meridian-Channel i Khudey Gaanraj '08".

a special two-episode round "Happy Dozen" tonight and on December 25 at 7:50 pm. Results of the round will be announced on January 2.

Neer A drama serial on familial issues



Richi Solaiman and Anwara in a scene from "Neer".

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Neer" will be aired on ntv tonight at 9:45 pm.

Written and directed by Ejaz Munna, the serial underlines little joys and woes that run deep in an extended family. Each member of the family has his/her own share of frustrations and disappointment. The family also recognises mistakes and tries to make amends. They all have their hopes and aspirations. Overcoming the odds, will they ever see good times?

Anwara, Azad Abul Kalam, Shams Sumon, Richi Solaiman, Ilora Gohor and Sweetie play the lead roles in the serial.

Welcome to Santa Land.

Santa. Chocolates. Games. Christmas Carols. Movies. Gifts.

The land of Santa awaits you with all the goodies, the gifts, the chocolates, the music and the magical journey to the land of Santa. Christmas is a celebration across the city and Dhaka Sheraton has always drawn up the most appealing and exciting Christmas celebrations for all ages especially the children. And this year will be no exception. So this 25th December come with your family and enjoy Christmas madness!

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