

25
ANNIVERSARY
SEASON 2023

E-CONCERT PROGRAMME



DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

DFP PRESENTS:

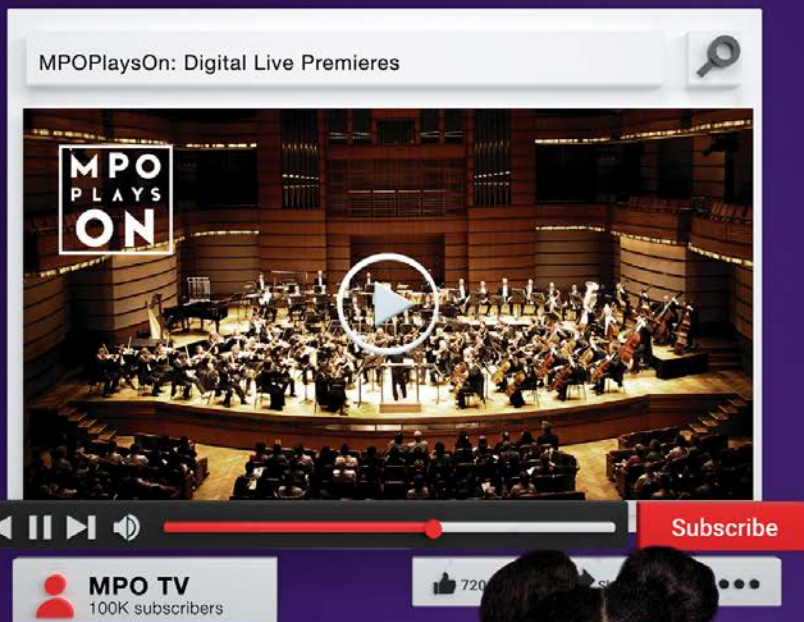
RAMLI SARIP
SYAIR TIMUR

2023 SEASON

PERFORMANCE AT
DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS

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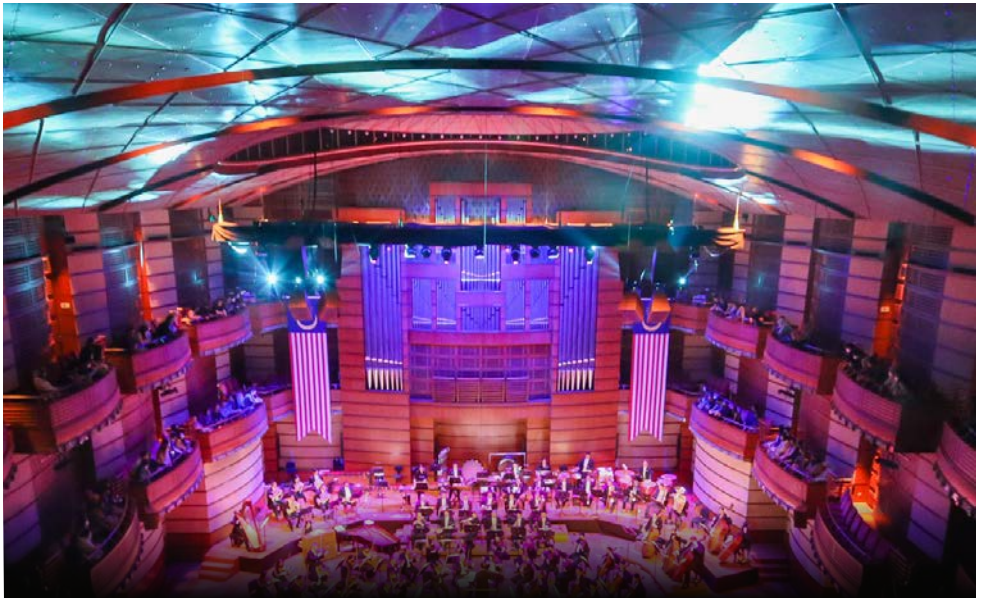
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DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS

Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS (DFP) is Malaysia's first concert hall dedicated to classical music. Located at the PETRONAS Twin Towers, it was officially opened on 17 August 1998 by the Patron of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO), YABhg. Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Haji Mohd Ali and Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Designed by Cesar Pelli, the hall takes its inspiration from the traditional shoe-box shape of the great 19th century European concert halls with the magnificent Klais Pipe Organ providing a spectacular backdrop to the stage.

The hall seats 920 people at one time which includes box seats, corporate suites and a royal suite. Acoustics experts Kirkegaard & Associates have incorporated unique acoustical devices into its design to maximize the hall's natural qualities.

DFP plays an integral part in the music and cultural landscape of the city of Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia. It continues to enthral audiences since the day it first opened its doors. Among renowned Malaysian artists who have mesmerized audiences at DFP include SM Salim, Sheila Majid, M Nasir, Siti Nurhaliza, Hattan, Jamal Abdillah, Khadijah Ibrahim, Ramli Sarip, Aishah, Ella, Yuna, Faizal Tahir, Dayang Nurfaizah,

Aubrey Suwito, Akim, Hazama, Hujan and Misha Omar among others.

International superstars who have graced the stage are Harry Connick Jr., Diana Krall, Anoushka Shankar, Laura Fygi, Zakir Hussain, Larry Carlton, Harvey Malaihollo, Ruth Sahanaya, and Judika.

World renowned orchestras that have performed here include the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, BBC Symphony, and Vienna Symphony.

Beyond classical music, DFP has hosted ensembles of jazz and world music genres such as the Count Basie Orchestra, Yellowjackets, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Mezzoforte, Igudesman & Joo, Pink Martini, and Gotan Project.

DFP has also been the venue for many local and international cultural performances, corporate events and film recording. Some of the clients that DFP have worked with are PETRONAS, UMW Toyota, Netflix, Warnakala, Allianz Malaysia, SP Setia, Embassy of The Republic of Korea, Embassy of Japan, MCKK Foundation, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) and The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur.

DFP's success is attributed to its exceptional architectural design, superior acoustics, and recording studio modelled after the legendary Abbey Road Studios. As the first purpose-built concert hall in Malaysia, DFP will continue to become the premier iconic hall with diverse music and cultural offerings to create unique experience for all.

DFP PRESENTS:

RAMLI SARIP

SYAIR TIMUR

Sat 13 May 2023, 8:30 pm

PROGRAMME

Overture

Orang Tua Bersidi Sakti

Surat Cinta Kuala Lumpur

Kekasihku

Syair Laila Majnun

Ufuk Nurani

Iqra'

Joget Selangkah Rindu

Adam Hawa

Ronggeng Rakyat

Cinta Di Sebalik Musim / Bukan Kerana Nama

Sejuta Wajah

Teratai

Kamelia

Nyanyian Sejagat

*This is tentative song list and is not in concert order.
The concert will last approximately 60 mins with no intermission.*

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vocals

Ramli

Sarip

A Singaporean rock legend and arguably one of the country's most commercially successful artistes, Ramli Sarip has certainly earned the unofficial – and affectionate – title of Papa Rock, among fans here and in the region.

Recognised for his versatility, having gone from rock to soul to world music, and from singer/guitarist to lyricist and producer, Ramli Sarip first made waves as a founding member of rock group, Sweet Charity, before going on to a successful solo career.

Born in 1952 into a large family—he was one of 10 children—Ramli grew up listening to traditional Malay music at weddings and religious events, and shared a talent for music with his father and one brother, who were both singers, and another brother, who played the guitar and the double bass. His father was the head of their *kampung* (village) and had a great influence over him. Always reminding his youngest son to respond to *azan* (call to prayer) led Ramli to discover and embrace his culture – something he holds precious and is very grateful for until today.

In fact, a deep appreciation of his culture was to play a significant part throughout Ramli's career, from his musical influences to resisting the frequent temptations that were so much a part of the rock scene. He kept clean despite his long-haired 'rocker' image, never indulging in cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. "There is no place for sex, drugs and alcohol if you respect your art. This is the downfall of many talents who think that these are part of being an artiste." While having long hair was seen as a trend—unfortunately linked to drugs and criminal activity at the time – Ramli insisted that for him, "it's not fashion, it's me". He was known to flee the scene every time his father, a mechanic who was also the family's part-time barber, tried to trim his hair. "Since my childhood days, my father would cut our hair as a part-time barber. But I (didn't) like it so I would always run away. So that's how it started. I will cut when I want to cut it, and will not be told how or when to do so. We may have been into rock and roll and we had long hair, but we always held on to our culture."

While on the one hand, the young Ramli was exposed to the sounds of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Elvis Presley and Pat Boone – "I just listened but I didn't get really into these Western artistes because I think I was quite young" – it was his *kampung* that influenced him the most at that time. Hindustani (North Indian classical) music was also something he became familiar with in his early years, recognising the similarities between Hindustani and Malay music, both of which originated from Middle-Eastern, Indian and Arabic roots.

Then came other, stronger influences from the international music scene. Bands such as Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin provided a starting point for Ramli's band, Sweet Charity, formed in the late 1960s. This band, though, started out with a different name, under different circumstances.



Off to a Sweet Start

Ramli Sarip and Rahman Sarbani, schoolmates from Jalan Teck Whye Secondary School, would hang out together almost every day, doing what they loved most: playing music. They were often joined by Ramli's *kampung* friends, brothers Wahid and Joe Salim who were studying at Toh Tuck Secondary School. The four, playing for the first time in a band, called themselves Funky Jewel, and went on to form the original line-up of what would become one of Singapore's most iconic bands, Sweet Charity.

"In that area of Sembawang, there were about four or five bands. They were pop, soul and country bands, while we were into rock." And although they lived far from Siglap, the National Theatre and Victoria Memorial Hall, where the more established bands lived and performed, the group did not have to wait long before getting their big break. In 1969, the newly-renamed Sweet Charity began performing at Ocean Bar in Sembawang. The owner had heard about them and decided to try them out. It was a gamble which paid off; the patrons loved the band, which was engaged and went on to play there nightly for about five years. The band was paid S\$850 a month, a supplement to their day jobs. Ramli was working in Jurong Town Corporation (JTC) as a storekeeper where he was regularly reprimanded for his long hair, which at the time, was frowned upon.



Sweet Charity

Ocean Bar was located near the Sembawang naval base and drew a large crowd of British and American sailors who would request their favourite rock songs. This scenario was another factor which influenced the band, and of course, was another very welcome form of exposure.

On the recording front, the band was initially less successful. After two failed attempts to clinch a record deal, Sweet Charity won a contract with Warner Music, which was setting up operations in Singapore and was on the lookout for bands to sign on.



Working their way up from their first album, *Sweet Charity*, which they were dissatisfied with, to the fourth where the band was more closely involved in the production process and track selection, Sweet Charity fast became a household name with several hits that remain popular until today, such as *Kamelia*, *Musibah* and *Pelarian*.

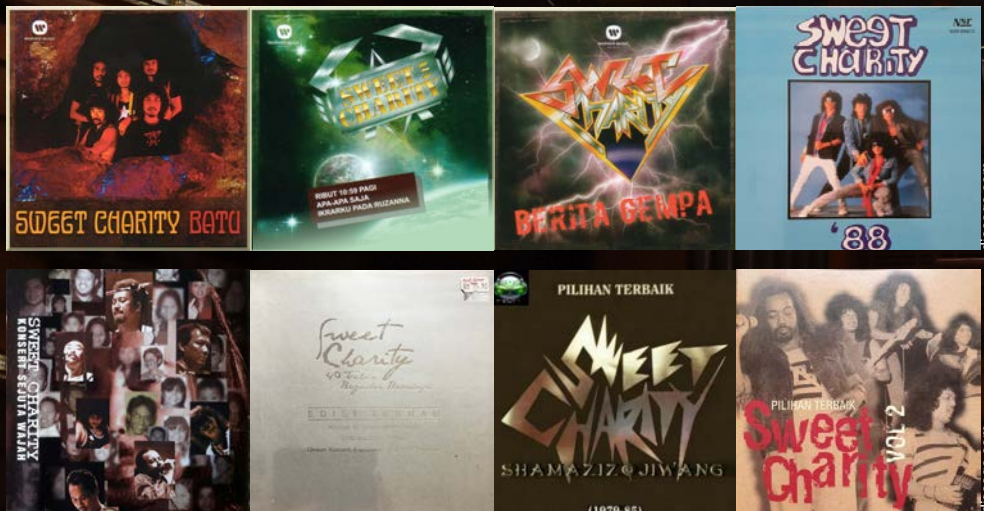
"Singapore is a very small country, so in half-an-hour you can reach Jurong, half-an-hour you can reach Sembawang. It was very much word-of-mouth; when you say Sweet Charity is performing, everybody would come."

In addition to performing every night at Ocean Bar, Sweet Charity also played gigs at weddings and parties. This continued even after their second album, *Pelarian*, was released. "That was the only way to get near to the fans and sell your albums. We had lots of good musicians on the scene, but we didn't have the chance to break into the global market, because nobody knew Singapore at that time."

In the '80s, however, the band began to feel internally challenged. Some members were married; most had bills to pay and despite their popularity, they knew that the music industry could not provide serious financial stability. In 1985, after more than a decade of gigs, hits and successes, Sweet Charity disbanded. The band members went their separate ways and Ramli decided to go solo.

"It was the scariest moment of my career," he says. "But the elements, the chemistry, they didn't work anymore. I couldn't handle [the] guitar well; I played for myself. The other band members were more creative and more talented. It just wasn't working anymore. "Maybe we were good, but we were not wise. We [didn't] really care about the pay, actually. We only wanted to play music. I even had to sleep in the toilet when I went to work, and sacrificed a lot in terms of energy, time, and money. When I look back now, I can smile."

Sweet Charity co-founder and drummer Rahman Sarbani was once quoted as saying of Ramli's decision: "We (felt) completely lost without him. He was our leader. Wherever he went and whatever he did, we just followed him. He was our strengths and we admired his great discipline."



Stepping Out

While Warner warned Ramli that he was about to “put on big shoes” by going solo, he accepted the challenge head-on. He had, after all, a dream: “I had the freedom to say, to write, or to do, or to produce the things that I wanted to, according to my style or my feelings. To me, you must have the right to explore or show your talent, to share your talent.”

He co-produced his first solo album in just 98 hours. *Ramli Sarip*, released in 1985, sold more than 25,000 copies. “I said to Warner: ‘This is only the beginning, it’s not started yet. One day I will be paid royalties, one day it must happen. I can feel it and touch it...!’”

The following year, 1986, his second album *Bukan Kerana Nama* sold more than 50,000 copies, not taking into account the countless pirated copies which were prevalent then. These led the way to sell-out concerts at the Harbour Pavilion, Sentosa and other venues.

Going solo was perhaps the most important decision that Ramli Sarip made in his career, and provided him the opportunity to devote time to song-writing and to use it to create awareness about issues that he felt needed to be addressed – the Vietnam War, the environment and spirituality.



Inspired and influenced by vocalists such as Robert Plant (from Led Zeppelin), Rod Stewart, Joe Cocker, and Otis Redding, Ramli began to experiment with elements of cultural and world music to create something he called “rock music with an Eastern flavour”.

With a unique style emerging, he began to be invited to write songs for other regional artists such as Malaysia’s rock queen Ella and Khadijah Ibrahim. He also produced the first album by Lefthanded, considered one of Malaysia’s best rock bands.

Eventually, Ramli moved to Kuala Lumpur. “My time in Singapore was good but I needed to move beyond to keep my career going. The avenues in KL were much more,” he says, “and I play spiritual music, folk, soul, rock and roll, a large enough repertoire to play to different audiences.”

He describes a life-changing moment when he performed two sell-out concerts at the Istana Budaya in 2005, playing with his band, Soul Journey. “It was the first time there was a rock concert at this very ‘traditional’ venue. We received a 20-minute standing ovation, with many people in tears at the power of the experience. It was a moment we shared, a beautiful experience.”



It is gratifying to know that thousands will pay to watch him perform, for instance, in 1996 when he played to a Merdeka Stadium audience of 30,000, the largest paid concert he had ever played. But, he says, it is not about the size of the audience but the connection. "I've performed more than 1,000 concerts, from college concerts to music festivals, to concert hall shows, to formal dinner shows," he says, adding that another of the visions he had earlier has come true. "I dreamed that I would play for kings and prime ministers and sultans, and it has happened." He describes the experience of being asked to set to music a poem by former Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. "When it was played, he was moved to tears."

Ramli has returned to perform in Singapore often, the most important concert being the one held in 2009 to mark the 40th anniversary of Sweet Charity, the band that started it all for him. Held at the Esplanade Concert Hall, it was, not surprisingly, a sell-out. "I miss Singapore and I love Singapore – I grew up there. But I have family in Malaysia too so I do not see boundaries. And everywhere is God's land, after all."

As a solo artiste, Ramli released 12 solo albums between 1985 and 2002, with an average sales of 50,000 copies each. When asked to name his most important work, he says, "Every piece of work is special if it moves people. Sometimes a show with an audience of 300 can feel like 3,000 because of the energy and the connection. When you give and when people like it, it moves them, makes their hair stand...to me, that's something. It's not about how much money you pump into the production - you cannot buy that moment."

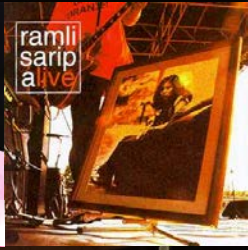
"And there is nothing like the feeling I get when I hear 17-year-olds using my material and getting it right and getting the spirit of the song! My message to them is this: Talent alone is not enough. You have to believe in your art and care about the way you do things and then you will get better and better."

"For me, it's not about the money anymore. It's also not for fun. It's part of my spiritual journey. I pray to God: 'If you think that art is a good thing for me, please open up the doors and bless me. If not, close them for me.'"

written by **Audrey Perera and Loretta Marie** in August 2010 for National Library Board, Singapore

"Music is not just singing, it has a part to play in life. Anything that touches me, I try to share because I believe in giving sincerity...art is a pure thing."





discogs.com

DISCOGRAPHY

1979: Sweet Charity

1980: Pelarian (with Sweet Charity)

1981: Sejuta Wajah (with Sweet Charity)

1982: Penunggu (with Sweet Charity)

1983: Batu (with Sweet Charity)

1984: Koleksi (with Sweet Charity)

1985: Berita Gempa (with Sweet Charity)

1986: Bukan Kerana Nama

1987: Perjalanan Hidup

1988: Pilihan Terbaik (with Sweet Charity)

1988: Istilah

1989: Seni dan Suara

1989: Warisan

1990: Ihsan

1991: Rentak Hidup

1991: Fanatisme (with Lefthanded)

1992: Lagu Zaman

1992: Best of 1975-1985

1994: Boxset Ziarah Seni

1996: VCD Konsert Sejuta Wajah Live

1997: Syair Timur

1998: Ramli Sarip Alive

2002: Kalam Kesturi

2003: Raja Rock

2005: Ruh Zaman

2006: VCD Zaman The Concert - Melayar Jiwa & Rock Timur Live Concert

2008: VCD Sweet Charity – Father's Day

2010: DVD 40th Sweet Charity Anniversary Live at Esplanade Singapore

2011: Mutiara Zaman

2012: Sadaqa

2013: DVD Konsert 2 Raksasa Live at Merdeka Stadium

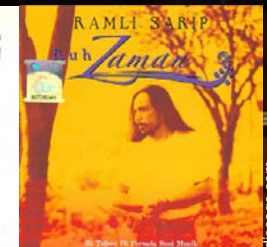
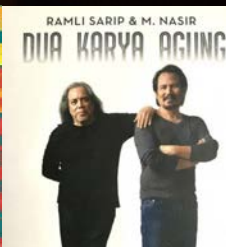
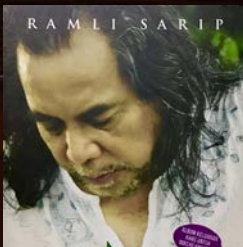
2014: DVD Konsert Tafsiran Alam Live at Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS

2014: DVD Blues Buat Teman Tour 2014

2015: Dua Karya Agung – Ramli Sarip & M Nasir

2016: Ramli Sarip & M Nasir University Tour

2021: RASA



discogs.com

AWARDS

Platinum Disc for Best Selling Albums
Gold Disc for Best Selling Albums

1982: Penunggu (with Sweet Charity)

1983: Batu (with Sweet Charity)

1985: Berita Gempa (with Sweet Charity)

1985: Ramli Sarip

1986: Bukan Kerana Nama

1991: Rentak Hidup

1992: Radio Passion 99.9FM Award for Most Outstanding Musician

1998: COMPASS Artistic Excellence Award

2003: Best Artiste, Anugerah Planet Muzik

2012: Anugerah Cipta Lagu (MACP)

2014: Anugerah Sri Wirama, Anugerah Industri Muzik

Musicians List

Tom Anuar: drums

Pa'ang Zaman: percussions 1

Riduan Zailani: percussions 2

Din Safari: bass

Ady Rasidi: guitar

Rozario: keyboard

Izad Lobo & Baby: background vocals

music that moves you



DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Hassina Begam Abdul Gani

COMMUNICATIONS & CREATIVE SERVICES

Munshi Ariff Abu Hassan
Hisham Abdul Jalil
Muhammad Farhan Aziz
Zulfadli Mohd Zakarrudin

BUSINESS & STRATEGIC RELATIONS MANAGEMENT

At Ziafirzani Chek Pa
Norsahida Mohd Salim
Syazwan Arif
Yayuk Yulianawati Rila

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Firoz Khan Mohd Yunus
Muhamad Hafiz Abdul Aziz

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Mohd Fahmi Md Radzi

FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

Mohamed Sultan Haja Mohideen
Norhisham Abd Rahman
Nurfarah Farhana Hashimi
Logiswary Raman
Nor Afidah Nordin

MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Hassina Begam A Gani

ARTISTIC MANAGEMENT

Khor Chin Yang
Sharon Francis Lihan
Ong Li-Huey
Wong Seong Seong

ORCHESTRA MANAGEMENT

Fadilah Kamal Francis
Sharifah Nurhadaina Mishra Syed Mohamad

MUSIC TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Ahmad Muriz Che Rose
Shireen Jasin Mokhtar

COMMUNICATIONS & CREATIVE SERVICES

Munshi Ariff Abu Hassan
Farah Diyana Ismail

BUSINESS & STRATEGIC RELATIONS MANAGEMENT

Yazmin Lim Abdullah
Muhammad Nur Rasyid Abd Razak
Norhaznita Husin


HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Mohd Fahmi Md Radzi

FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

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ANNIVERSARY
SEASON 2023



DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

DFP PRESENTS:

M P O

JAZZ

BAND & FRIENDS

SAT 9 SEP 2023 8:30PM

MPO Jazz Band

RM189 RM229 RM269 RM309 RM349*

Suite: RM189/seat & RM229/seat

*Inclusive of artiste Meet & Greet

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dewanfilharmonikpetronas

25TH

ANNIVERSARY
SEASON 2023



DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

DFP PRESENTS:

Khai Bahar

SAT 11 NOV 2023 8:30PM

Khai Bahar, vocals

RM189 RM239 RM289 RM319 RM399*

Suite: RM189/seat & RM239/seat

*Inclusive of artiste Meet & Greet

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- Brand activations
- Private concerts
- Movie premieres
- Filming
- Recording



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