

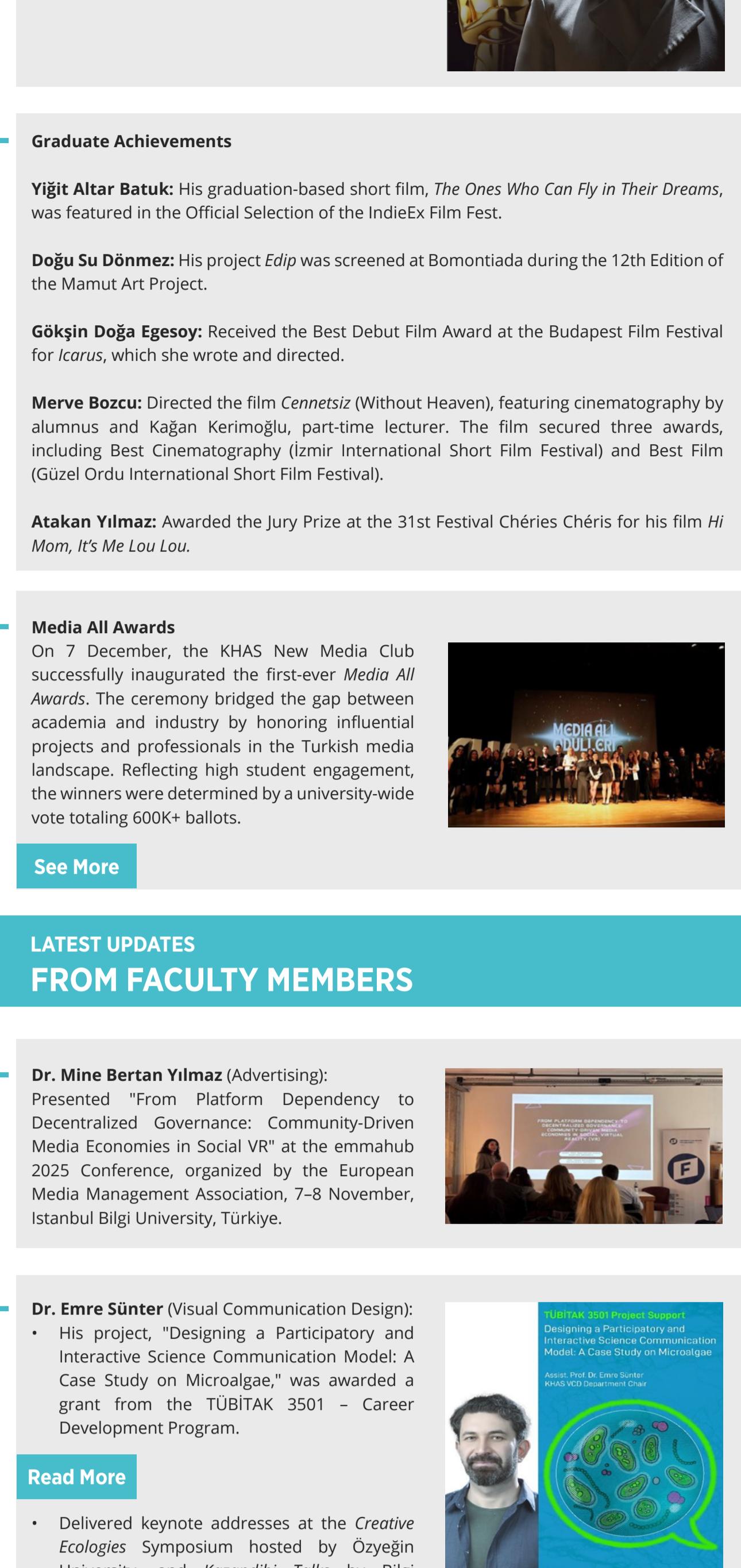
KHAS_COMM NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025

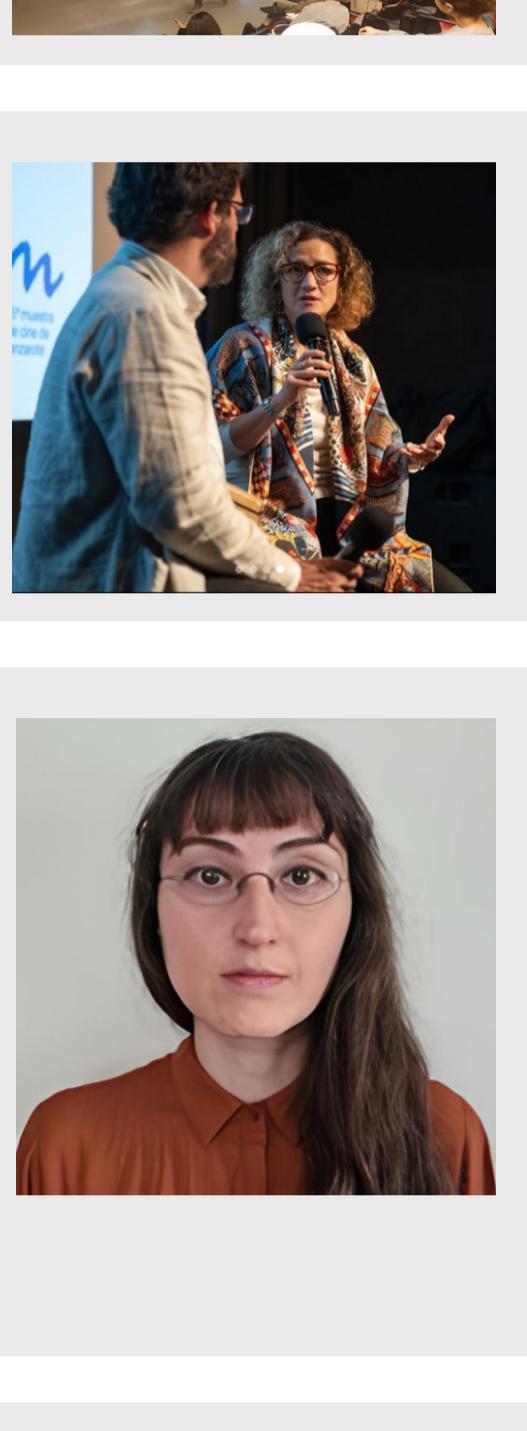
by KHAS School of Communication, İstanbul, Türkiye

LATEST UPDATES FROM OUR STUDENTS

Artworks by Besme Mine Kaya, our senior student at the Department of Visual Communication Design, were selected for the 12th Edition of the Mamut Art Project. Her portfolio was exhibited at Bomontiada from 10-14 December.



Cem Kamil Dede, our student at the Department of Radio, TV and Cinema, won the Best Student's Film Award at the Springtime International Film Festival with *Henüz Vaktek Gülmü* (While There is Still Time to Remember). His experimental documentary *MozikMoro* also secured multiple honors, including Lift-Off Global Network Official Selection, FusionFilm International Film Festival Best Experimental Film, and Critics' Choice International Film Festival Best Experimental Film and Best Director.



Isa Hasanov, our student at the Department of Radio, TV and Cinema, served as the Casting Director for the feature film *Tağışev: Neft* (Taghiyev: Oil), a production officially designated as Azerbaijan's submission for the Academy Awards (Oscars).



Graduate Achievements

Yiğit Altar Batuk: His graduation-based short film, *The Ones Who Can Fly in Their Dreams*, was featured in the Official Selection of the IndieEx Film Fest.

Doğu Su Dönmez: His project *Edip* was screened at Bomontiada during the 12th Edition of the Mamut Art Project.

Gökşin Doğa Egesoy: Received the Best Debut Film Award at the Budapest Film Festival for *Icarus*, which she wrote and directed.

Merve Bozıcı: Directed the film *Cennetsiz* (Without Heaven), featuring cinematography by alumnus and Kağan Kerimoğlu, part-time lecturer. The film secured three awards, including Best Cinematography (İzmir International Short Film Festival) and Best Film (Güzel Ordu International Short Film Festival).

Atakan Yılmaz: Awarded the Jury Prize at the 31st Festival Chéries Chéries for his film *Hi Mom, It's Me Lou Lou*.

Media All Awards

On 7 December, the KHAS New Media Club successfully inaugurated the first-ever *Media All Awards*. The ceremony bridged the gap between academia and industry by honoring influential projects and professionals in the Turkish media landscape. Reflecting high student engagement, the winners were determined by a university-wide vote totaling 600K+ ballots.



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LATEST UPDATES FROM FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Mine Bertan Yılmaz (Advertising):

Presented "From Platform Dependency to Decentralized Governance: Community-Driven Media Economies in Social VR" at the *erinnahub 2025 Conference*, organized by the European Media Management Association, 7-8 November, İstanbul Bilgi University, Türkiye.

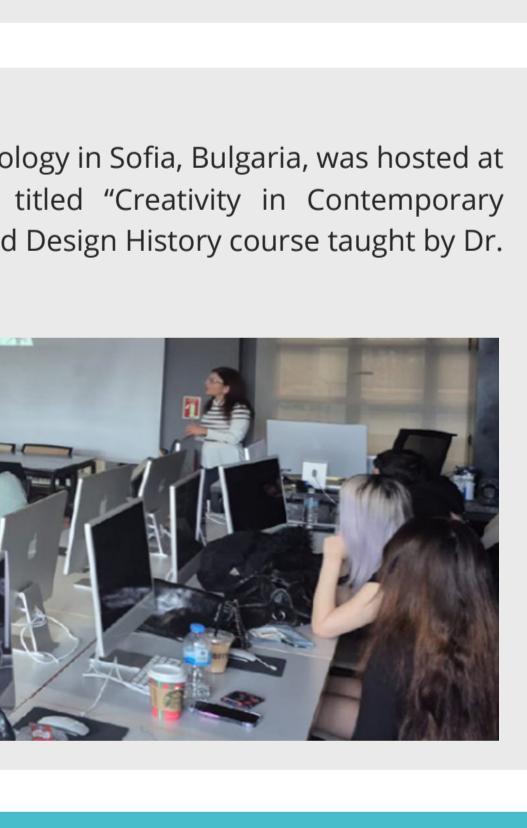


Dr. Emre Sünter (Visual Communication Design):

His project, "Designing a Participatory and Interactive Science Communication Model: A Case Study on Microalgae," was awarded a grant from the TÜBİTAK 3501 - Career Development Program.

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• Delivered keynote addresses at the *Creative Ecologies* Symposium hosted by Ozyegin University, and *Kazanlıbı Talks* by Bilgi University, both located in Türkiye.



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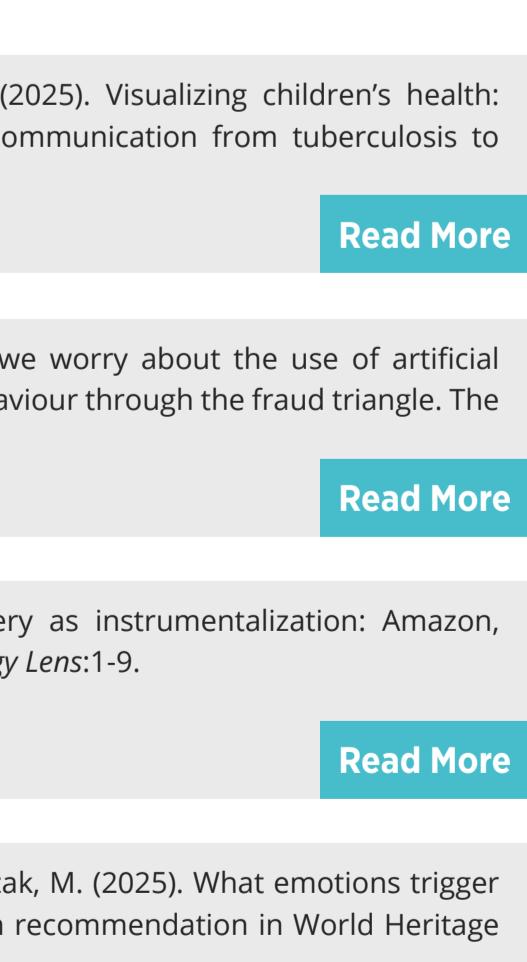
Dr. Melis Behlil (Radio, TV and Cinema):

Presented her commentary on *Susuz Yaz* (Dry Summer) directed by Metin Erksan at the 15th Lanzarote Film Festival held in the Canary Islands, Spain.



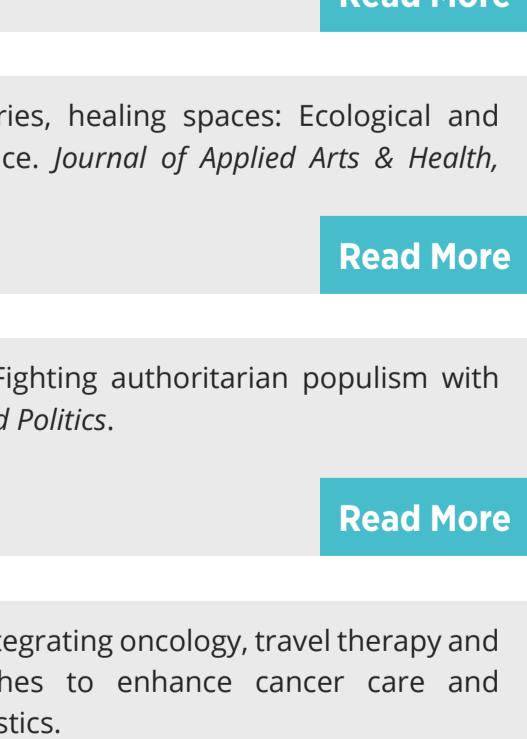
Dr. Gözde Cöbek (New Media and Communication):

Presented an affective analysis of digital dating and "swiping" practices in Turkey at the 2nd International Media and Cultural Studies Conference, held on 5-6 November. Cöbek presented her research titled "Choosing a Partner in the Age of Dating Apps: An Affective Analysis of 'Swiping' Practices of Users in Turkey." Her presentation offered an in-depth analysis of the emotional and sociocultural dynamics surrounding digital dating platforms, specifically focusing on how the "swiping" mechanism shapes user experiences and partner selection processes within the Turkish context.



Dr. Onur Sesığır (New Media and Communication):

• Delivered a keynote on 12 November at Frankfurt Goethe University on personal playlisting and provided expert commentary on Medyascope regarding streaming ecosystems and algorithms. His talk on the personal playlisting and curating repetition examined the transition from mixtapes to streaming playlists, highlighting how curated repetition functions as a tool for human agency in the digital era. Dr. Sesığır's insights offered a deep dive into the shifting dynamics of music consumption and the emotional significance of personal curation.

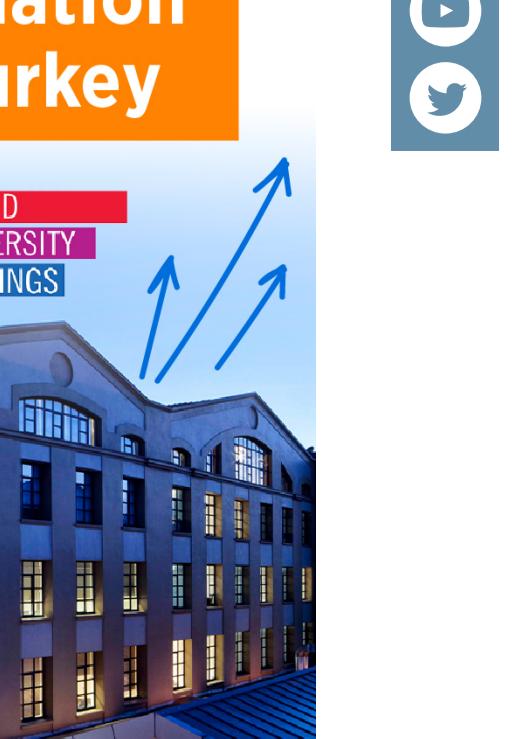


• Appeared on Medyascope's "Ben Devri," contributing to the episode titled "Streaming ecosystem, algorithms, and digital platform discussions," on 30 November. He provided critical insights into how digital platforms are reshaping the media industry and the shifting relationships between creators and viewers in

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News from Part-time Lecturers

Merve Akdag and Dilek Yördem (Visual Communication Design): Presented their Bot-organica Workshop series at the 15th International Illustration Research Symposium, organized under the theme "Apparatus: The Role of Technology in Illustration," on 21-22 November, Koc University, Türkiye.



Hakkı Kurtuluş and Melik Sümer (Radio, TV and Cinema): Had their new platform, "Garajoyu," selected for the *Sümer Film* (Antalya and Screenplay) Fund Pitching Platform, within the "20 New Projects of Our Cinema" Film Forum at the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, Türkiye.



Filmi Yıldırım (Radio, TV and Cinema): Received a special mention and award at the Dracula Film Festival for *Apollon by Day* *Athena by Night*, which she wrote and directed.

Nazlı Elif Durdu (Radio, TV and Cinema): Had her film project, 100 Thousand Turkish Lira, selected for support by the Netherlands Film Fund.

İsmail Hakkı Polat (Currency Markets and Communication): Appeared on CNBC-e on 1 December to provide expert commentary on the current state of the crypto-currency markets, analyzing the factors behind recent market volatility.

Dr. M. İlhan Rıza (Digital Marketing): Hosted the *ArıMedya* on 13 November, featuring a panel discussion on the digital marketing landscape, including critical shifts in the environment, the rise of AI, and the future of digital marketing.

AltMedya Workshop (Communication): Hosted the *ArıMedya* on 13 November, featuring a panel discussion on the digital marketing landscape, including critical shifts in the environment, the rise of AI, and the future of digital marketing.

Collaboration with the Industry Partners (Communication): The Department of Communication organized the 2nd KHAS Short Film Competition, featuring a panel discussion on the future of film and television, including critical shifts in the environment, the rise of AI, and the future of digital marketing.

Internship Opportunities (Communication): The Department of Communication organized the 2nd KHAS Short Film Competition, featuring a panel discussion on the future of film and television, including critical shifts in the environment, the rise of AI, and the future of digital marketing.

Dr. Ayşe Sezen (New Media and Communication): Hosted the *ArıMedya* on 13 November, featuring a panel discussion on the digital marketing landscape, including critical shifts in the environment, the rise of AI, and the future of digital marketing.

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