

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Armenian Film Festival
Featuring international films by and about Armenians

February 17, 18 & 19, 2006

Delancey Street Theater
600 Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA
(Between Brannan and Townsend Streets)

General Admission - \$12.00 per screening
Students & Children under 16 - \$10.00
Full Festival Pass - \$70

Advance tickets available online

www.armenianfilmfestival.org

Or Call Ticketweb at 866.468.3399

Limited number of tickets will be available at venue on day of screening.

SAN FRANCISCO – After an unprecedented weekend of sold out screenings in 2004, the Armenian Film Festival returns with twenty-four feature-length and short films from around the globe by and about Armenians. Screenings will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 17, 18 and 19, 2006 at the intimate 150-seat Delancey Street Theater in San Francisco. Each screening is designed as a two-hour program, including post-screening conversation with filmmakers, when present, and panel discussions.

Building on the successes of the 2004 festival, the same curatorial team has selected films ranging from narrative to experimental, documentary to fiction by filmmakers in Armenia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. The program highlights a diverse lineup of contemporary pieces that reveal a surprising breadth of approaches and issues. Reaching beyond geographical boundaries and conventional definitions of identity, the films tackle universal themes of displacement, ritual and recognition. Among them is *Garden Dwelling* by award-winning filmmaker **Tina Bastajian**, described as “A graceful, nuanced treatment” (CinemaEast Series, New York); this oblique travel diary recounts four Armenians’ visit to Eastern Turkey. Don Bernier’s ***In a Nutshell: A Portrait of Elizabeth Tashjian***, winner of the Crystal Heart award for best documentary feature at the Heartland Film Festival, highlights the life of Elizabeth Tashjian, the curator of the Nut Museum. The Armenian Film Festival is proud to collaborate with Armenia’s **HyeFilm** in presenting Rouben Kochar’s latest feature, *Arahet*, a classic story of

immigration set in Armenia and Los Angeles. *Muron* by Nigol Bezjian, awarded **Best Director** at the Beirut International Film Festival, depicts the forty-day ritual of making the Baptismal Oil. Another noteworthy director, Christine Khalafian, is the founder of the Milwaukee Underground Film Festival. Her work has been shown at the Sundance Film Festival and the Centre George Pompidou in Paris. Aiming to support and encourage **local filmmakers**, the Armenian Film Festival is pleased to present the works of two San Francisco State University graduates: Ara Ebrahimiian's *Pick me Up* and Hagop Kaneboughazian's animated short, *Ara's Flight*.

Fiscally sponsored by Golden Thread Productions, the Armenian Film Festival is co-presented by the Film Arts Foundation, the San Francisco Cinematheque, the Arab Film Festival and the Goethe Institute.

Curatorial Team

Anahid Kassabian, Film & media professor
Thea Farhadian, Interdisciplinary artist and composer
Hrayr Eulmessekian, Film Maker

Anahid Kassabian is a film and music scholar and author of **Hearing Film**. She has curated several Armenian film festivals, taught film for many years, and is now James and Constance Alsop Chair of Music at the University of Liverpool. Her roots in the Bay Area go back to her graduate study at Stanford and her work with Aunt Lute Books in San Francisco.