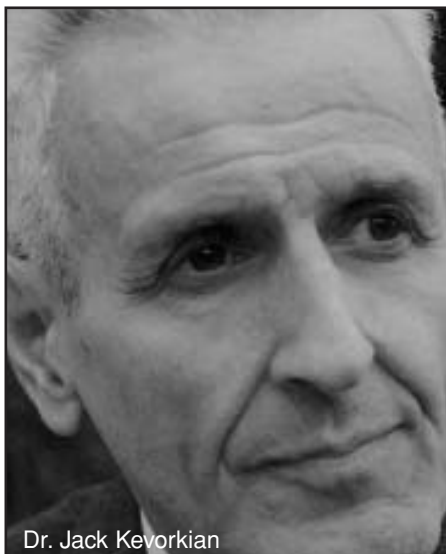


SPECIAL THANKS to StallionAV Productions (New York), Maro Parian, Diana Hekimian, Joyce Artinian, the filmmakers and our sponsors for making this program possible.

Curator: Nora Armani

Armenian Cinema, much like Armenian culture, is produced both in the homeland and in the diaspora. The Armenian cinematic tradition stretches back over 90 years to 1911, when the burial of the prelate Catholicos Matheus II was captured on celluloid. The Armenian film studio Haikino began operations in Yerevan in March 1924. Since then, there have been fruitful periods and relatively difficult times in film production in the homeland, reflecting the political stability or turmoil of Armenia, the Caucasus or the broader region. In parallel, and mostly as a result of mass migration due to human and natural disasters especially after WWI, Armenians were dispersed to different parts of the world creating an extensive diaspora, of which the United States has the highest concentration in numbers.

Subsequent generations produced filmmakers scattered throughout the globe with an eclectic harvest of films. This program is a small sampling of diaspora Armenian filmmakers. They come to you from France, Ukraine, the UK, Canada and the USA. Some of them treat Armenian issues, while others handle general human interest stories. Enjoy!



Dr. Jack Kevorkian

Dedicated to the mothers of soldiers everywhere, this is a video poem about a mother singing a lullaby to her child, calling on different birds associated with various professions. ***Playing with THE NIGHT IS BRIGHT***

THREE SHORT FILMS ON IDENTITY

introduced by Nora Armani
Tuesday, March 28th, 5:30 pm; ArcLight Cinemas

U.S. PREMIERE
THE MEDLAR TREE—DIARY OF AN UNEMPLOYED WOMAN/LE NÉFLIER—JOURNAL D'UNE CHÔMEUSE

(France 2004, 36 mins)
Director/ Screenwriter: Isabelle Ouzounian;
Producer: Flagrant Délit Productions
An unemployed woman takes refuge in the suburban house of a male friend when her lover leaves her and roams the streets, videotaping people she picks at random and asking them personal questions.

U.S. PREMIERE
THE GARDEN OF KHORKOM/LE JARDIN DE KHORKOM

(France, 1998, 20 mins)
Director/ Screenwriter: Isabelle Ouzounian.
In this poetic and realistic fable on suffering in exile, three principal characters, representing three generations, try to find a place for themselves under the sun.

L.A. PREMIERE
WORM/VORT
(USA, 2005, 32 mins)
Director: James Martin; Writer: Shahe Mankerian;
Producers: Jaymes Wheeler, Soseh Haroutounian, Yeghia Tchakmakian, Shahe Mankerian, Yvette Khalafian.
Filmed in one continuous half-hour steadicam shot, "Worm" is the story of three Armenian friends, ushers in their best friend's wedding, who struggle to define the meaning of love in their personal lives and love in the context of national identity.

L. A. PREMIERE
GARINE TOROSSIAN RETROSPECTIVE
Saturday, March 25th, 7:15 pm; ArcLight Cinemas

Gariné Torossian was born in Beirut, Lebanon of Armenian origin and moved to Canada in 1979. Retrospectives of her work have taken place at New York's Museum of Modern

Art, Armenia's Cinematheque, Berlin Arsenal and Telluride Film Festival. "Her remarkable work - which blurs the lines between drama, documentary, and experimental film practices - explores themes of memory, desire, sexuality, identity, and the materiality of the image itself." – Tom McSorley, Canadian Film Institute.

SHORT FILMS

SPARKLEHORSE 1999, 9min, 16m
A film that conveys subtly and with characteristic poetry the way people communicate in a world of spiraling mediation. Honorable mention Berlin International Film Festival 2000.

DUST 2000, 16mm, 6min
A dance film which deals with loss and unrequited emotion.

BABIES ON THE SUN 2001, 16mm, 5 min
Nostalgic, weathered images of 'childhood' inspired by the song of the same name by the band Sparklehorse. Winner of Panorama short film prize Berlin Intl. Film festival, 2002.

SHADOWY ENCOUNTERS 2002, 16mm, 15min
The resultant richly textured and layered imagery delves the labyrinthine and secret realms of the Quay Brothers world.

GARDEN IN KHORKHOM 2003, 16mm, 14min.
Inspired by the works and words of Armenian American painter Arshile Gorky.

SANDIAS EUSTACY 2004, DVD, 6min
A musical composition by Serj Tankian (of System of a Down) inspired by Komitas about a wandering girl whose melancholy inspires illusions of love towards a crane.

HYPNOTIZE/MEZMERIZE – SYSTEM OF A DOWN 2005, DVD, 14 min. Produced by: SonyBMG
This film on the band System of A Down, inspires a rich palette of colors and textures and bridges the gaps between visual art, sound art, cinema and rock video.

THREE DOCUMENTARIES

Friday, March 24th, 5:45 pm; ArcLight Cinemas

U.S. PREMIERE
RIGHT TO EXIT
(USA, 2003, 53 mins)

Director/Producer: Anna Terean; Producer: Artur Armin
The first documentary about Dr. Jack Kevorkian since a Michigan court convicted him of murder for helping a terminally ill patient end his life. RIGHT TO EXIT is a serious, well-researched study of the trial, politics and euthanasia, featuring interviews with the attorneys, the prosecution, witnesses and patients, CBS investigative reporter Mike Wallace ("60 Minutes") and an exclusive phone interview with Dr. Kevorkian from his jail cell.

U.S. PREMIERE
KARAOKE DREAMS
(USA 2005 44 mins)
Director/editor/camera/co-producer: Rob Davidian
A humorous documentary about the fun and unique culture of Karaoke, focusing on five interesting karaoke characters competing for the "The Golden Mic" prize. The movie's budget was \$20 covering four nights of parking on Santa Monica's pier. ***Playing with RIGHT TO EXIT***

U.S. PREMIERE
HAMMER AND FLAME
(UK, 2004 10 mins)
Director: Vaughan Pilikian; Producer: Justin Meiland
An industrial documentary on the life of workers in a shipyard. Winner of the Golden Apricot, Best Documentary, Yerevan 2005, and Best Foreign Short, Malescorto, 2005. ***Playing with RIGHT TO EXIT***

U.S. PREMIERE
**THE NIGHT IS BRIGHT
(AKA BRIGHT IS THE NIGHT)**
Wednesday, March 29th, 10:15 pm; ArcLight Cinemas
(Ukraine, 2004, 98 mins)
Director: Roman Balayan; Screenwriters: Rustam Ibragimbekov, Roman Balayan; Producer: Makdos Film

A solitary scientist, who specializes in communication with deaf, dumb and blind children, finds his life in upheaval with the arrival of an attractive intern from Moscow. "The drama of Roman Balayan's "Bright Is The Night" is worth appreciating for its delicate and lyrical visual images." – Alexander Fedorov, FIPRESCI, Moscow Film Festival 2004.

L.A. PREMIERE
ARMENIAN LULLABY
Wednesday, March 29th, 10:15 pm; ArcLight Cinemas
(USA, 2005, 6 mins)
Director/Producer: Irina Patkanian;
Author of Poem: Rafael Patkanian (1830-1892)