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THE ARmenIAN Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA)
Mission: Projecting The Armenian Voice On A World Stage Through The Arts Of Theater And Film.
adaa@armeniandrama.org
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ADAA
ARMENIAN DRAMATIC ARTS ALLIANCE
PRESENTS

“MAKE THE CONNECTION”
A PANEL:
LINKING ARMENIANS IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY
&

THE 4th BIENNIAL PAUL SCREENWRITING AWARDS CELEBRATION
Friday, November 8, 2013, 7pm
Writer’s Guild of America
135 S. Doheny Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
THE ARMENIAN DRAMATIC ARTS ALLIANCE

Program:

Introduction & Master of Ceremonies:
Jill Simonian

State of ADAA
Bianca Bagatourian, President

Paul Screenwriting Award Announcement:
Archbishop Hovman Derderian & Karen Kondazian
Past Paul Winner – Jeff Kalousdian

Armenian Star Award
“Leah Ryan” playwright
Presented by Lisa Kirazian

Panelists:
Michael Goorjian
Aris Janigian
Robert Papazian
Michael Peretzian
Hank Saroyan

Bianca Bagatourian, Moderator

Q&A

Reception to Follow in Lobby

THE 2013 LILLIAN & VARNUM PAUL SCREENWRITING AWARD

TITLE DONOR:
The Late Mr. Varnum Paul & Mrs. Lillian Paul

FINALISTS
"1915"
by Garin K. Hovannisian & Alec Mouhibian

"The 13th Image"
by Yervand Kokchar & Jeani Di Carlo

"The Second Journey"
by Levon Minasian & Eric de Rocquefeuil

Contest Administrator: Bianca Bagatourian

PAUL SCREENWRITING AWARD JUDGES

HONORARY JURY
MICHAEL GOORJIAN, ANAHID NAZARIAN, HANK SAROYAN

FIRST ROUND JURY
Michael Arabian, Bianca Bagatourian, Steve Bagatourian, Alex Dinalaris, Lisa Kirazian, Karen Kondazian, Ryan Oksenberg, Kristen Lazarian, Marty Papazian, Anahid Shahrak
After few years of being assistant director, then directing himself (documentaries) in Paris, Eric de Roquefeuil writes now for cinema, TV & theater feature films with Levon Minasian (The Second Journey), Olivier Simonnet (Haendel’s Hells); and a TV movie (Mister Zola My Friend). But it’s almost in contemporary and troubled stories that his personal universe finds its own expression: Mondayman, a comedy exploring the lack of desire in couples; Solticon, an anticipation film taking place at the summit of the Ararat Mount... and a play, Bosphore, a tribute to Harun Dink, written with Gorune Aprykian.

2013 ADAA ARMENIAN STAR AWARD
(POSTHUMOUS)

LEAH RYAN

“It was always cloudy in my town. Some people get a headache when it’s about to rain — those people would have a headache all day. When it did rain, the green was electric and the flowers (lilacs, forsythia, heather) would spring at you like wild cats. Windows were icy, locked-in, white and gray. Little boys had long hair and little girls’s mumramed bracelets that never came off. I went barefoot whenever I could, and my feet were brown and shiny. I never wore a dress, except when I visited grandma. I cursed like a sailor, except when I visited grandma. I took walks alone, to the waterfall, to the candy store.

Mom and dad got divorced and we left that town, leaving the blacks, the headaches, and the favorite black tomcat. For years I found it hard to breathe, to swallow. Visits home were bittersweet, and now it’s not really home anymore. When people ask me where I’m from, the name of the town still comes out of my mouth, but it feels like a lie.

Home now is a rectangular refuge in a brick and asphalt universe. The window screens fill with soot and car exhaust. A raucous music beats against the building — sirens, taxi-horns, drums, Hip Hop and Satans from passing cars. Grandma is dead and I still curse like a sailor, but I know how to clean it up. My closet is full of dresses. I never go barefoot. The cats are confident in their permanence. I take walks alone, but there’s no waterfall, I belong to myself.

Yesterday some friends told me they had visited my old town, for a wedding. Their heels sunk into the mud, they had headaches, they got wet. They were devoured by mosquitoes. I can see them, people, strolling through a field toward the bride and groom, stopping at their bare, damp arms, wishing they’d worn Wellingtons. Isn’t it beautiful, though, I ask, and regret it immediately. I know their eyes won’t fill with tears, they won’t sigh and become wistful, and they don’t.

Outside the café, it’s bright and sunny. A cascade of noisy traffic rushes by, and pedestrians trickle past the window. "Soon we’re talking about something else, and I’m making a joke, laughing at my own wit. Under the table, I sneak my foot out of my shoe and press it to the cool tile floor.”

—Leah Ryan, New York City

Leah Ryan was a playwright, essayist, writer of post-modern greeting cards, and a general woman of letters. Her plays have been performed all over the United States. Her play Blah! a dark comedy about the legacy of the Armenian genocide, received the Malbaum Award for plays dealing with issues of social justice. Ryan taught playwriting, English, and creative writing to a wide variety of students, including those at the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising, where she was a professor in the Arts and Communications department and founder of their Writing Center.

Ms. Ryan also worked with groups of high school and college students at Vassar and New York Stage and Film’s Powerhouse Theater Apprentice Training Program where members of the Apprentice Company have performed several of her plays and adaptations. Ms. Ryan graduated with honors from Smith College as an Ada Comstock Scholar, winning the Denis Johnston prize for excellence in playwriting three times and the Jill Cummins MacLean Prize once. Ms. Ryan went on to earn her Artist Diploma in Playwriting at Juilliard and her MFA from the University of Iowa Writer’s Workshop, where she won the Distinguished Teaching award and was twice chosen to take part in the annual Iowa Playwrights Festival. Her publications include the literary anthology For Here or To Go, and Even More Monologues by Women for Women, essays in The Best of Temp Slave, as well as work in many small magazines. Her play Pigment was published by Playscripts, Inc. Her short work also appeared in 400 Words, including the debut issue. She was fiction editor and a regular columnist at Patak Planet magazine.

Leah Ryan died of leukemia at the age of 44 on June 12, 2008, in New York City. The Leah Ryan Fund for Emerging Women Writers (http://www.leahryanfund.com) continues her legacy by supporting talented and unrecognized emerging women playwrights.
ADAA'S MAKE THE CONNECTION: Linking Armenians in the Entertainment Industry

PANELISTS

Left to Right:

HANK SAROYAN
Started in Television in the early 70's with Dick Clark Productions, Hank swiftly moving up to producer, at 24, producing Roberta Flack; Chicago; ABC In Concert; The New York Philharmonic Young People's Concerts; The Radio Show, and several late night rock comedy television specials with various celebrities. He also served as a Program Executive of Children's Programming at ABC Network, Creative Executive at Hanna Barbara Productions, and VP of Network Series and Development, Marvel Productions, as well as the first partner with National Geographic Television to produce the acclaimed series GeoKids. He was also Executive in Charge of the Emmy-winning series, Jim Henson's Muppet Babies. Hank also executive produced, adapted and directed the ABC Weekend Special based on William Saroyan’s The Parsley Garden, for which he received the Outstanding Directing Emmy, making him one of few directors to win Emmys in both live action and animation. Hank continues to write and develop both children's and adult fare for television and the big screen, in addition to performing with Eugene Friesen in a ninety-minute show based on the prose of his uncle, William Saroyan, called Saroyan in His Own Words.

MICHAEL PERETZIAN
In his four decades as a literary agent in Hollywood, first at William Morris, then later at the Creative Artists Agency, he has represented many distinguish international motion picture screenwriters and directors. Included in that long list are Christopher Hampton (CHERI, ATONEMENT, and LES LIASONS DANGEREUSES), John Madden (SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE), Peter Hedges (PIECES OF APRIL, DAN IN REAL LIFE), Zach Helm (STRANGER THAN FICTION), Isabel Coixet (THE SECRET LIFE OF WORDS, ELEGY), Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (THE LIVES OF OTHERS) and Academy Award winner Anthony Minghella (THE ENGLISH PATIENT, TALENTED MR. RIPLEY, COLD MOUNTAIN, and NUMBER ONE LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY). He has also represented the film and television careers of many Broadway playwrights and directors including Terrence McNally, Beth Henley, Mark Medoff, Jon Robin Baitz, Sir Richard Eyre, David Leveaux, Scott Ellis, Steven Sater and Joe Mantello.

While establishing his entertainment industry career, he directed many Los Angeles theatre productions, and has since directed several more productions which have received nominations and awards from Ovation at the LA Drama Critics Circle. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), and serves on the Advisory Boards for the Ojai Playwrights Conference and the Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance.

ROBERT PAPAZIAN
An Emmy Award winner for his critically acclaimed production of NBC’s Inherit the Wind, is recognized as one of the most successful television producers, executives and studio owner/operators. In 1987, Papazian partnered with writer-producer James Hirsch to create one of the industry’s most respected independent production companies, Papazian-Hirsch Entertainment. Among their many achievements, Bob and Jim initiated and produced HBO’s highly popular, smash success, Rome. Papazian’s prodigious body of work has garnered a total of 27 Emmy nominations and 9 Emmys for directors, cast and crew. Other television laurels for Papazian include the all-time top-rated (46.0/62) multi-Emmy nominated television movie, The Day After (ABC); the Christopher Award for Crisis at Central High (CBS); California Governor’s Community Excellence Award for A Reason to Live (NBC); the Excellence in Programming Award from American Women in Radio and Television for Why Me? (ABC); and an ACE Award nomination for Soul of the Game (HBO). Papazian-Hirsch together have produced more than 60 television movies plus the long-running CBS hit hour dramatic series, Nash Bridges, starring Don Johnson. In 2004, Papazian and Hirsch were honored with the ARPA International Film Festival “Lifetime Achievement Award” for their distinguished accomplishments as filmmakers.
ARIS JANIGIAN
Aris Janigian, author of This Angelic Land, a critically acclaimed novel set during the 1992 Los Angeles Riots, is also author of Bloodvine and Riverbig, and co-author along with April Greiman of Something from Nothing, a book on the philosophy of graphic design. A Ph.D. in psychology, from 1993 to 2005 he was senior professor of Humanities at Southern California Institute of Architecture.

He has published in genres as diverse as poetry, social psychology, and design criticism. He was a contributing writer to West, the Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine, a finalist for the William Saroyan Fiction Prize, and the recipient of the Anahid Literary Award from Columbia University. He is a contributing writer for thenervousbreakdown.com. He lives in Los Angeles, but seasonally returns to Fresno, his hometown, to pack and ship wine grapes.

MICHAEL GOORJIAN
Michael Goorjian is an American actor, filmmaker, and writer. As an actor, Michael won the Emmy Award for Best Supporting Actor in the television movie David’s Mother with Kirstie Alley. He is also well known for his role as Justin, Neve Campbell’s love interest on the Golden Globe winning series Party of Five (1994 – 2000), as well as Heroin Bob in the film SLC Punk! (1998). As a director, Michael achieved widespread recognition for his first major independent film, Illusion (2006), a film he wrote and directed, and starred in alongside Hollywood-legends Kirk Douglas.

Michael’s attended the UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television. His first big Hollywood break came as a dancer when in 1992 he was cast as Skittery in the Disney film, Newsies, starring Christian Bale and Robert Duvall. What followed was starring roles in numerous films including Chaplin with Robert Downey Jr. (1992), Forever Young with Mel Gibson (1992), and the Oscar nominated Leaving Las Vegas (1995). Michael also guest starred in countless television series and is a founding member of the Los Angeles based theater group, Buffalo Nights.

Michael began collaborating with the publishing company Hay House to produce and direct a number of films including the documentary You Can Heal Your Life, starring internationally renowned metaphysical author and teacher, Louise L. Hay and The Shift, starring internationally best-selling author Dr. Wayne Dyer, along with Michael Deluise and Portia de Rossi.

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The way up.

Enriching Lives
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Final Draft
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Garin K Hovannisian & Alec Mouhibian

Garin K. Hovannisian is the author of *Family of Shadows: A Century of Murder, Memory, and the Armenian American Dream*, translated into both Turkish and Armenian and critically acclaimed by Christopher Hitchens, David Ignatius, and Vartan Gregorian, among others. Hovannisian has also written for the *Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, Ararat*, and several other publications. A recipient of the Fulbright Fellowship of Creative Writing and the Lynton Award for Book Writing, he lives between Los Angeles and Yerevan.

Alec Mouhibian is a writer living in Los Angeles and the co-star of *Heal America* (2013), a forthcoming feature documentary. He has written for Slate, *The Weekly Standard*, and *Washingtonian Magazine*, among several other publications. He has lectured on English literature at Russian-Armenian University in Armenia and served as a media fellow for the Hoover Institution and fellow for the Moving Picture Institute.

Yervand Kochar & Jeani Di Carlo

Yervand Kochar was born in Yerevan, Armenia. He was named after his grandfather, the famous Armenian-French artist, the creator of "David of Sassoun" monumental sculpture and one of the leading figures in the 30's Paris avant-garde movement. Yervand studied film, theatrical criticism and drama at the Yerevan State University and philosophy at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas 'Angelicum' in Rome, Italy. Since 1999, Yervand has worked in Los Angeles, where he received the LA Weekly Award for Directing of the play 'Master and Margarita.' Among his early directorial works are the short film 'Manfish' (2001), a sci-fi fantasy which became a darling with audiences in Italy and LA; the experimental shorts compilation "Dreams" (1998); and a full-length documentary "The Tower of Babel: LA-Bremen" (1999). His 2005 poetic documentary 'The Wounded Warrior' created a controversy and a debate in media from The Wall Street Journal, LA Weekly to Entertainment Today and throughout the blogosphere. Currently, Yervand is working between Los Angeles and Armenia. His new film "Heal America" is to be released this year.

Jeani di Carlo expresses her unique background by writing screenplays and teleplays for the past eleven years, she also composes lyrics and has a passion for theater and film acting. Jeani has studied with the best acting coaches including, Caroline Thomas, Marilyn Fried, and Ivana Chubbuck. With her creative and business skills, Jeani has reached several goals. It is with these qualities that Jeani expresses herself on stage, film, or in print.

Eric de Roquefeuil & Levon Minasian

Born in Leninakan (re-named Gumri), Armenia, Levon Minasian commenced his theatre studies at the Institute of Fine Arts and Theatre in Yerevan (Armenia). He worked as an actor at the Araspel and Vardan Adjemian Theatres in Gumri. He studied film at the University of Paris-8 (France). In 1996, he received his Master's Diploma with distinction with the congratulations of the jury. He is an award-winning scriptwriter and past Paul Award finalist, and he also has worked on theatrical performances and has directed short films, produced mainly by French production companies.