

The first Boston Armenian Film Festival (April 2024)

co-hosted by National Cinema Center on Armenia (NCCA)

Program

Thursday 4/18/24 at 7pm

Namus by Hamo Beknazaryan

1925, Haykino, 66 min., silent, drama, based on the novel of the same title by Al. Shirvanzade.

Script/Director: H. Beknazaryan, **Director of Photography** (Cinematography): S. Zabozlaev,

Art Director: M. Surgunov.

Main Cast: Hovhannes Abelyan, Avet Avetisyan, Hrachia Nersisyan, Hasmik Hakobyan, Nina Manucharyan, Hambardzum Khachanyan, Maria Shakhubatyanyan, Samvel Mkrtchyan.

Seyran and Susan, a young couple, fall victim to patriarchal prejudice. The story is set in provincial city of Shemakhi. The love story involves Seyran, a son of a potter, who secretly meets with Susan, to whom he is engaged. The Armenian customs didn't tolerate this and strictly prohibited such behavior. When a neighbor catches them during one of their secret meetings, rumors of their actions spread around the neighborhood and her family decides to marry her to another man, to restore the family's honor. They choose Rustam, a rich merchant, for Susan to marry. Seyran slanders Susan by saying that he owns her. Rustam kills Susan, considering himself disgraced by Seyran's actions. At the end, Seyran commits suicide upon hearing about his lover's death.

Namus is the first Armenian feature film.

Friday 4/19/24 at 6:30pm

Handstand/Չվիվիւյր by Ovsanna Shekoyan

2021, Pose Media, with the support of NCCA, short, 15 min.

Producer: A. Sahakyan, **Director/Script/Editor:** O. Shekoyan, **Cinematography:** A.

Sahakyan, **Production Design/Costumes:** L. Sargsyan.

Cast: Arnold Ghazaryan, Mika Vatinyan, Narek Aleksanyan, Gagik Ghazareh.

Raffi is a young physical education teacher in a small village school. Everything changes in his normal life when one of the kids faints during his class. The situation gets more tense when Raffi confesses that the kids were doing a handstand to warm up in the gym at a temperature below zero.

Nothing to be Afraid of/Կախենալու ոչինք չկա by Sylva Khnkanosyan
2019, Armenia/France, Hayk Studio, La Huit Production, feature doc., 77 min.

Producer: S. Jourdain, **Script/Director:** S. Khnkanosyan, **Camera:** V. Ter-Hakobyan, Z. Safaryan, **Music by:** Tigran Hamasyan
Featuring: Lilit Amirkhanyan, Varditer Sahakyan, Narine Asatryan, Inga Avanesyan, Lusine Asryan.

In the snow-covered mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh, five women demine the Lachin Corridor, which was covered with mines during the 1st Artsakh War. The film is about their hard work and the choices they make.

15 min INTERMISSION

Village of Women/ Կանանց գյուղը by Tamara Stepanyan
2019, Armenia/France, Hayk Studio, La Huit Production, feature doc., 83 min.

Producer: S. Jourdain, **Script/Director:** T. Stepanyan, **Camera:** T. Stepanyan, R. Fresson.

Armenia, a village called Lichk where only women, children and the elderly reside. Men leave 9 months of the year to Russia to work. How do these women endure waiting, loneliness, and the absence of their husbands?

Saturday 4/20/24 at 7pm
Kiko by Naira (Narara) Muradyan

2017, NCCA, (inspired by Zahrat's Kiko), animation, 6 min., color
Script/Director/Art Director/Animation: N. Muradyan, **Comp.:** Tigran Hamasyan.

An elderly photographer's lens captures the everyday of the city and how severed heads look like cabbages to those wearing green glasses.

Should the Wind Drop/ Si le vent tombe/ Երբ որ քամին հանարսովի by Nora Martirosian

2020, France/ Armenia/Belgium, Sister Productions, anEva production, Kwassa Films, with the support of CNC, NCCA, Eurimages, drama, Arm./French/Engl., 100 min.

Producer: J. Paratian, **Co-Producers:** A. Vorskanyan, A. Nezri, **Script:** N. Martirosyan, E. Pagano, **Co-Script:** G. André, O. Torres, **Director:** N. Martirosyan, **Director of Photography:** S. Roca, **Music by:** P.-Y. Cruaud.

Main Cast: Gregoire Colin, Hayk Bakhryan, Arman Navasardyan, Davit Hakobyan, Vardan Petrosyan, Narine Grigoryan.

Alain, a French airport auditor, arrives at the brand-new airport in the Republic of Artsakh. This tiny self-proclaimed republic with uncertain borders, surrounded by the territory of its hostile neighbour, is now getting back on its feet after a war of independence. Alain is assigned to study if the new installation of the airport conforms the international standards from the perspective of its imminent reopening. Through interviews with the airport's employees and other encounters, Alain begins to discover a country that exists only on certain maps but that is well and truly there in reality, with its population, its government, its institutions, and its crops. He starts to care for the people he has become attached to.

15 min INTERMISSION

Tombe by Diana Kardumyan

2018, anEva Production, with the support of NCCA, short, 19 min.

Producer: A. Vorskanyan, E. Karapetyan, **Script:** V. Martirosyan, D. Kardumyan, **Director:** D. Kardumyan, **Cinematography:** V. Ter- Hakobyan, **Art Director:** A. Tonoyants.

Main Cast: Narine Grigoryan, Tatev Ghazaryan, Tatev Hovakimyan, Armen Margaryan.

Kara works in the «Goldfish» eatery all day long washing dishes. Her life has become a closed circle of grey days far from the colors of the big city. Every day she walks home alone at night. She saves money for family. But one night an unexpected incident changes her daily routine.

From The Land of Mush/ Մշն գիղիկի by Armine Harutyunyan

2016, ArtStep Studio, with the support of NCCA and "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund, animation with historical, documentary footage, 27 min., color

Script: A. Harutyunyan, **in cooperation with:** A. Minasyan, A. Khanjian, A. Torosyan, **Director:** A. Harutyunyan, **Composer:** T. Petrosyan, P. Baghyan, **Art Director:** A. Minasyan, **Comput. Graph.:** Monkey Studio.

Music: Armenian folk songs arranged by Komitas, excerpts from A. Terteryan's symphonies.

Homilies of Mush is the largest ancient Armenian manuscript. In the time of the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire (1915) two women found the relic in the monastery, destroyed by the Turks. They divided the manuscript into two parts and headed for Eastern Armenia where the Russian troops were deployed. One of the women could reach Armenia and hand the manuscript to the Church. The other one perished on the way, yet, a Russian military officer chanced to find this part of the book.