



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arpa Foundation for Film Music and Art (AFFMA)
2919 Maxwell Street, Los Angeles, CA 90027
www.affma.org
Contact: Beve Regas / Kalista PR
(818) 566-9769 / b.regas@kallistapr.com

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2010 PROGRAM

(HOLLYWOOD, CA) - The 13th annual Arpa International Film Festival (September 21 to 26, 2010 at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood) is pleased to announce this year's festival program and events. The 6-day fest offers over 40 feature films, shorts, documentaries, music videos and animated films including World, North American, and West Coast premiers from 30 nations. Nations represented among this year's Official Selection include Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Nagorno-Karabakh, Norway, Morocco, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, and Venezuela.

The festival's Opening Night on Tuesday, September 21 will launch with an exclusive screening of Amo Bek-Nazaryan's 1926 silent epic *Namus (Honor)* based on the play of the same name by Alexander Shirvanzade who also penned the screenplay. The North American premiere of the newly restored print, the first full-length feature ever produced in Armenia, traces the moral portrait of a patriarchal society and the fate of a young woman, as determined by the values and traditions of male domination.

To mark this unique showing, *Namus* will be screened in the Egyptian courtyard followed by a celebration of Armenian Independence Day under the auspices of the Consul General of the Republic of Armenia. Co-sponsored by the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce, the celebration will present a cultural array of foods, beverages, and entertainment.

"We are very pleased to join efforts with the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce and Arpa International Film Festival, says Consul General of Armenia, Grigor Hovhannissian. "During its 13 years of service to the community, the festival has featured the work of hundreds of emerging Armenian and international filmmakers, and we applaud that achievement."

The second day of the festival will be held at the private residence of award-winning actress and human rights activist, Mary Apick (*Beneath the Veil*). The exclusive reception on Wednesday, September 22 is open to gold-pass members as well as invited guests and will

fete visiting international filmmakers, providing them with networking opportunities in Los Angeles.

On Thursday, September 23, the festival will introduce the previously announced Francophone-Fest Cinema, regrouping films from France, Lebanon, Armenia, Belgium, Switzerland, Quebec, Morocco, Tunisia and Vietnam.

“It is a privilege to showcase the cultural diversity of Francophonie from those countries related to France by a common language, history or culture” said Philippe Guionnet, President of FrancophoneFest Cinema.

FrancophoneFest Cinema will feature “Les oublies de l’histoire” by Hassan Benjelloun, and will be followed by the festival’s 2010 Career Achievement Award presentation to Paris-based filmmaker and 2010 Cannes Film Festival Palm D’Or winner for short film (*Chiennes D’Histoire* aka *Barking Island*) Serge Avedikian. The fest will also present *The Sounds of Beirut* by Seth Koury which explores today’s music scene in Lebanon. (Other Francophone movies will be projected throughout the weekend). The evening will conclude with a festival cocktail and buffet reception highlighting music and entertainment with VIP guests and Diplomats in attendance.

On Friday, September 24 the festival will present Eric Friedler’s critically acclaimed documentary, *Aghet – A Genocide (Aghet-Ein Völkermord)* which is produced by ARD television network of Germany. Friedler is the recipient of the festival’s prestigious Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award, which is annually awarded to a filmmaker who contributes to the fight for social justice and human rights. Friedler will be in attendance to receive the honorary award and take part in a discussion about the film. A reception will follow in the lobby of the Egyptian Theatre.

Weekend highlights include *The Fifth Column (Hinkerort Zorasune)* from director, writer and producer Vatche Boulghourjian which was an official selection and third prize winner of the Cinéfondation at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival; and *Tales From Kars*, a compendium of five humanistic short films all taking place in Kars, a city in eastern Turkey near its border with Armenia.

Awards will be handed out at the 2010 Arpa Awards Gala and Reception on Sunday, September 26.

Festival sponsor AT&T Real Yellow Pages YP.COM will present the AT&T Award for Environmental Conservation and Stewardship. “AT&T Real Yellow Pages is honored to sponsor Arpa International Film Festival for the second consecutive year,” says AT&T Area Marketing Manager, Shani Belisle. “The arts are an integral part of the local business community in Los Angeles. AT&T commends AFFMA for its tireless efforts to promote the growth and development of the arts within the Armenian community and beyond.”

Full schedule and advance Gold Pass and discounted screening and event tickets can be purchased now through September 20 online at <http://affma.org/>

2010 Arpa International Film Festival Official Selection includes:

(D) - Director
(W) - Writer
(P) - Producer

FEATURE FILMS

Bonded Parallels (2009) WEST COAST PREMIERE

91m Norway, France, Armenia

Hovhannes Galstyan (D) (W) (P); Marine Zakaryan (W); Thomas Schlesinger (W); Gevorg Gevorgyan (P); Mona Steffensen (P); Olivier Oursel (P); Trond Brede Andersen (P)

At the end of World War II, Hanna gives temporary asylum to a prisoner of war, Arakel, hiding him in her hut in southern Norway. The presence of this man changes her life and she starts writing down her feelings in her diary... Laura, 42, single and fiercely independent, lives a quiet and isolated life as a math teacher in Yerevan, Armenia. It seems that nothing can change the rigidly ordered daily routine of this woman until she receives a diary written by her mother, who died while giving birth to Laura. As Laura learns the story of her parents - a love story of desperation, loss and primal passion – she begins to experience a parallel story of forbidden love in her own life. *In Armenian and Norwegian with English subtitles.*

Coeur Animal (Animal Heart) (2009) LA PREMIERE / Francophone-Fest Cinema

91 m Switzerland

Séverine Cornamusaz (D); Séverine Cornamusaz, Marcel Beaulieu (W)

Suddenly he thinks her alone, his wife. This person whom he doesn't know how to love and who is now falling prey to a gnawing disease. This woman whom he knows so little about and whom he would like to be with him. Right now, Just like before. *French with English Subtitles.*

Daredevils of Sassoun (Sasna Tsrer) (2010) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

80m Armenia Arman Manaryan (D) (W)

Armenia's great epic poem The Daredevils of Sassoun comes to life thanks to the heroic efforts of writer/director Arman Manaryan. This feature length animation depicts the legendary tales of Sanasar and Baghdasar, Ariudz Mher and Sassountsi Davit, heroes of Armenian folklore that have entertained generations of Armenian youth. In Armenian only.

De Pere en Flic (Father and Guns) (2009) LA PREMIERE Francophone-Fest Cinema

107m Quebec

Emile Gaudreault (D); Émile Gaudreault, Ian Lauzon (W); Daniel Louis, Denise Robert (P)

They are father and son. They are both cops. And they are about to work together as a team. Trouble is... neither can stand the sight of the other.

I Like It (A Me Mi Gusta) (2009)

1h 27m Venezuela

Ralph Kinnard (D) Reinaldo Cervini (P) Rosa Clemente (W)

Margarita Garcia has a dream: become a great chef, but not in her home country. She leaves everything behind to start a new life in London, but cruel reality sets in and she is forced to return to Venezuela. Back at home in Caracas she has to start all over again, but fate gives her a break: Paul Welsare, the admired British Cook comes to Venezuela to work for Christmas. If she only manages to receive a recommendation, she will have the passport to success in her hands. The only trouble is that Paul and Margarita are total opposites. Between family, friends and kitchen stove ignites this love story between a cold English man and a passionate Latin woman only to prove that – home is where the heart is – and Venezuela has much more to offer than Paul Imagines. *In Spanish with English subtitles.*

Last Stop "friendship" (2009) WORLD PREMIERE

90m USA Kris Kertenian (D) (W) (P)

Former best friends George and Hank are reunited after George's son's tragic death. George learns his son's death was not accidental and pays Hank to put a contract on the killer. But soon dark secrets from their past emerge and threaten their relationship. When the law gets involved, their friendship is put to the test once again. This time, who will live? And who will die? *Reception to Follow*

Les Barrons (The Barrons) (2009) Francophone-Fest Cinema

111m Belgium, France

Nabil Ben Yadir (D); Nabil Ben Yadir, Laurent Brandenbourger (W);

Somewhere in modern-day Brussels, Hassan, Aziz and Mounir are three friends who lead a life of pleasant apathy. When real life crashes unpleasantly into their dream world, Hassan, Aziz and Mounir are forced to deal with life, love and the future.

Les oublies de l'histoire (2010) US PREMIERE / Francophone-Fest Cinema

105 m Morocco

Hassan Benjelloun (D); Hassan Benjelloun, Toufik Taha (W); Bentaqerla Productions (P)

Azzouz decides to immigrate towards Belgium, in search of a better life. Yamna, obliged to flee, decides to join Azzouz, her love. In Brussels, they will meet Nawal, Said, Ben, Tatiana or Amal, all trapped by networks of exploitation of clandestines

Namus (Honor) (1926) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF RESTORED VERSION

83m Armenia Hamo Bek-Nazarian (D) (W)

Young lovers Seyran and Susan meet a tragic fate because of the patriarchal prejudices of their parents. Although their marriage is arranged in early childhood and in spite of their puppy love, Susan's father Barkhudar marries his daughter to another man as a matter of honor. The first feature film ever produced in Armenia. *In Armenian with English subtitles.*

Nightbeasts (2009) LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

80m USA Wes Sullivan (D) (W) (P)

A father and son on a weekend hunting trip encounter supernatural horror in the woods.

Tales From Kars (Kars Öyküleri)(2010) US PREMIERE

81m Turkey

Özcan Alper (Moto Guzzi) (D) (W)

Ülkü Oktay (Zilo) (D) (W)

Emre Akay (A Small Truth) (D) (W)

Ahu Öztürk (Open Wound) (D) (W)

Zehra Derya Koç (Ashes) (D) (W)

Başak Emre (P)

Ahmet Boyacolu (P)

The movie features six short films surrounding various characters from Kars who were selected from a contest held by the Ankara Cinema Association's Festival on Wheels. It was shot at the initiative of the Ankara Cinema Association and former Kars Mayor Naif Alibeyoğlu.

Moto Guzzi - Twelve-year-old Yusuf, who lives in a town near Kars, has to cycle miles every day to get to school, even in the brutal winter. It may seem like a punishing routine, but not so for Yusuf. After all, he knows that every morning he'll catch a glimpse of Leyla, the girl he has taken a shine to, even if only for a fleeting moment...

Ashes - Nazlî's childhood is a period of her life she has never come to terms with. Then, with news of her mother's death, she starts remembering everything. Is the past really so bad? Like everyone, her mother is a figure she both fears and loves.

Zilo - Seven-year-old Zilo, who lives in Kars, has just one friend: a chick she's inseparable from. Zilo is out of place with her chick both at home and at school, but one day finds herself deeply impressed by what her teacher has to say about Ankara. Setting herself the goal of going to the capital, Zilo needs to find the money to make her escape.

Open Wound - Ozan, a university student, returns to his village on receiving the news that his grandmother has died. Back in the village, he finds out a lot about the past of his father, an inwardly angry man. But he chooses to run away from the truth...

A Small Truth - Celal Bey is known popularly as 'the Athlete,' except that no one knows where the nickname comes from. Though he cuts a figure as a modern republican, Celal Bey is actually a typical Kars farmer who uses traditional farming methods. But as someone who favors innovation in his everyday life, he decides one day to catch up with the times and hire an agricultural engineer."

Three Evenings (Yerek Yereko) (2009) US PREMIERE

64m Feature

Armenia Arshak Amirbekyan (D) (W) (P)

Love turns into memories. Memories turn into dreams. Only compassion is real... *In Armenian with English subtitles*

DOCUMENTARIES

Aghet: A Genocide (Aghet: Ein Völkermord) (2010) OPENING NIGHT FILM

90m Germany

Eric Friedler (D) (W); Katarina M. Trebitsch (P)

Aghet tells the story of the Armenian Genocide. Raphael Lemkin, the father of the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, called it the first systematically executed genocide of the 20th century. Still, the Turkish government continues to deny the reality of the genocide. The film follows the motivations behind the international denials and the consequences for international policy today. Two dozen of Germany's finest actors lend their talents in resurrecting the words of those who witnessed the atrocities firsthand, among them Protestant theologian Johannes Lepsius, American ambassador Henry Morgenthau, American consul Leslie Davis and German medical officer Armin T. Wegner after whom the humanitarian award filmmaker Eric Friedler will receive is named.

The Blue Book (2009)

77m Turkey, United Kingdom

Gagik Karagheuzian (D) (P) (W)

Historian Ara Sarafian endeavors to expose Turkish state denial of the Armenian Genocide. He demonstrates how the Turkish argument is contrived, by using documents from the UK National Archives on the events of 1915.

Charents: In Search of My Armenian Poet (2009) WEST COAST PREMIERE

98m Armenia

Shareen Anderson (D) (W) (P) Tigran Nazaryan (P) Sevan Naccashian (P)

Charents: In Search of My Armenian Poet explores the life and work of one of Armenia's best-loved poets, Eghishe Charents, who was tragically killed under mysterious circumstances in a Stalinist prison in 1937. This literary travelogue takes viewers on a journey from Armenia, through Georgia, to the poet's birthplace in Kars, Turkey, and includes interviews with experts of his work and stylized poetry readings by ordinary Armenians. *In Armenian with English subtitles.*

Destination Watertown: The Armenians of Hood Rubber (2009) WEST COAST PREMIERE

68m USA

Roger K. Hagopian (D) (W) (P)

In 1896 the Hood Rubber Company opened in Watertown, Massachusetts, attracting Armenian immigrant laborers. Former employees recount life on the conveyor belt, piecework, exposure to chemicals, and injuries in the workplace, yet consider themselves fortunate to have had a job at Hood. The factory, which closed in 1969, was the impetus for the establishment of the Armenian community of Watertown.

Down Here (Ici-Bas) (2010) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

55m Belgium, France, Armenia

Comes Chahbazian (D) (W) (P)

Loss of family space, workspace, urban space and memory space. These four subdivisions of space tested by time, searching for and responding to each other, contaminated by chaos - off-screen, experienced by all - in a town falling apart. Filmed entirely in Yerevan, Armenia. *Armenian with English subtitles.*

From Ararat to Zion (2010) US PREMIERE

71m Armenia, Egypt, Israel, Turkey

Edgar Baghdasaryan (D) Fr. Mesrop Aramian (W) (P)

The film follows the paths taken by Armenian pilgrims traveling between two focal points of history – from Mount Ararat to Zion, from A to Z. The documentary depicts the spirit of pilgrimage, which has nurtured and sustained the sanctuaries and monasteries of the Holy Land over the centuries. The Holy Land emerges anew in this film, revealing its otherworldly essence and life-transforming power. The film shows such striking scenes as the Holy Sepulcher by night, the colorful spectacles of Easter in Jerusalem, the Ceremony of Holy Light, Mount Sinai in Egypt, the monasteries of the Judean Desert and the summit of Mount Ararat. Narrated by Aidan Quinn. *In Armenian with English subtitles*

Little Alien (2009)

94m Austria, Greece, Morocco, Slovakia, Spain

Nina Kusturica (D) (P) Eva Testor (P)

They are teenagers who fled crisis regions and undertook an extremely dangerous journey to Europe, all alone, hoping for one thing: to live. Arriving in Austria, they fight to live normal lives, struggling against a system that demands they sacrifice their youth for an uncertain future. *In Spanish, French, German, Arabic, English, Slovak, Dari, Somalian*

The Lonely Tadeh (2008) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

20m Iran

Hossein Homayounfar (D) (W)

St. Tadeh Church was built on the tomb of St. Tadeh between the 4th and 6th centuries. Every year at the end of July, a special ceremony takes place at the church to coincide with the anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Tadeh." *In Farsi with English Subtitles*

Right to Exit (2010) UPDATED AND EXTENDED

80m USA

Anna Terean (D) (P); Arthur Armin (W) (P)

The real story of the notorious Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

Scientists Under Attack - Genetic Engineering in the Magnetic Field of Money (2009)

88m Germany, USA

Bertram Verhaag (D) (W); Claus Stigel (P)

This is a documentary thriller about how Agro-Chemical multinational corporations victimize international scientists to prevent them from publishing their scary findings.

Sounds of Beirut (2010) Francophone-Fest Cinema

55m Lebanon, USA

Seth Koury (D) (W) (P)

'Sounds of Beirut' is a documentary that was filmed in Lebanon weeks after a major armed conflict that nearly cast the country back into civil war as militias battled on the streets of Beirut. The film explores the upbeat atmosphere in Beirut through the influences behind the vibrant and diverse music scene despite the city's troubled past and uncertain future.

The Third Rider (2008) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

60m Armenia - North American Premiere

Gor Baghdasaryan (D) (W) (P)

Armenia is one of the most mono-ethnic countries in the world. In spite of or as a result of this, tolerance is not common. The subjects of this film judge and ridicule each other in the comfort of their homes. But the hate and intolerance cannot remain safely tucked away forever. The film was supported by the Golden Apricot Fund for Cinema Development, UNDP and OSCE as part of the Tolerance Without Borders project. *In Armenian with English subtitles.*

SHORTS

A Nice Old-Fashioned Romance (2010)

14m USA

Ara Soudjian (D) (P) Garinee Soudjian (W)

A romantic comedy about a misunderstood fifth grade boy who gets caught in the middle of a romance between his teacher and the school principal. Based on a short story by William Saroyan.

Akhtamar (2009) US PREMIERE

19m United Kingdom, Armenia

The Shammajian Brothers (D/W) Audrey Hawkins (P)

On a stormy night, a mysterious taxi driver (Armen Dzhigarkhanyan) is hailed by a handsome, young Muscovite (Grigory Dobrygin) who has traveled to Armenia to meet his girlfriend (Ravshana Kurkova). The driver senses his fare's troubled state of mind and recounts the Legend of Akhtamar, offering the ancient wisdom of its heartfelt message. *In Russian with English subtitles*

Barking Island (Chienne D'Histoire) (2010) US PREMIERE

15m France, Turkey

Serge Avedikian (D) (W) (P) Karine Mazlounian (W)

Constantinople 1910. The streets are overrun with stray dogs. The newly-established government, influenced by a model of Western society, uses European experts to choose a method of eradication before deciding, suddenly and alone, to massively deport the dogs to a deserted island away from the city.

Winner Palme d'Or for Short Film - 2010 Cannes Film Festival.

Serge Avedikian will attend the Festival

Black Ops Arabesque (2010)

5m USA Jared Drake (D) Nathaniel Eyde (W) (P)

A secret service agent yearns to be a dancer.

Connect (2010)

15m USA Robert Nazar Arjoyan (D)

Charles Moore is a hard man. He designs cell-phones for a living and is deeply committed to his job. As a result, he isn't always home. This does not sit well with neither his wife Catherine nor his son Henry. Alone for most of his young life, Henry always finds solace in his grandpa Leon, Charles' father. Leon, an ex-army cook, lovingly calls Henry by the nickname of Heno. The two are best friends, keeping each other company because there simply is no one else. When Leon passes away, Charles is forced to fill in his father's shoes and face his misgivings as a son, and Henry must decide whether or not to repair his relationship with Charles.

Drain Desert Tanner (2009)

7m USA Shant Hamassian (D) (W) Alexander Rosenkreuz (W) (P) Art Edro (W) Adam Lesar (P)

Tim Tanner is a forensics investigator who finds himself in a sticky situation. He must make an outlandish and desperate attempt to find a way out.

Eye-Light (2009)

26m South Korea Kyung Jin Ko (D) (W)

Two women and one man are sharing their lives together. One fine day, their secrets are revealed. *In Korean with English subtitles.*

The Fifth Column (Hinkerort Zorasune) (2010) WEST COAST PREMIERE

29m Short "Lebanon, USA" Vatche Boulghourjian (D) (W) (P) "The Fifth Column chronicles desperation and mourning in the Armenian quarter of Beirut through a weave of allegorical narratives. In a panic, Hrag has stolen his father's gun and fled home. As father searches for son, both discover paths to personal freedom in a city that offers no escape. Official selection and third prize winner of the Cinefondation at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival." *In Armenian with English subtitles*

I Dream (Yerazum Em) (2008) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

18m Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh Hrachya Zakaryan (D) (W) (P)
Grigor Danielyan (W) Edgar Manukyan (P)

An appeal for peace, I Dream takes place on the front line of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone where an Armenian military unit takes up position. *In Armenian with English subtitles.*

Interrogation (2010)

18m USA Ryan Reels (D) Lilly Thomassian (W) Spencer Ballou (P)

After performing at a concert, a beautiful young cellist of Middle Eastern descent ends up in a squalid interrogation room across from a wicked American military officer intent on retrieving a mysterious set of numbers from her. Bruised and bloodied, the cellist has already withstood brutal treatment, but will the officer finally be able to break her?

Jasmin & Josephine (2009)

10m USA Christopher J. Boghosian (D) (W) (P)

A young woman demonstrates extraordinary love in an ordinary way.

Nuit Blanche (2009)

5m Canada Arev Manoukian (D) (W) (P) Stephanie Swedlove (P)

Nuit Blanche explores a fleeting moment between two strangers, revealing their brief connection in a hyperreal fantasy.

The Photographer (2009)

8m Argentina, Colombia, USA, United Kingdom Shahan Melkonian (D)
Carolina Martinez-Gondra (P) Tom Maine (W)

A lonely photographer, plagued by the memory of a lost love, the dark streets of the city, her mysterious return one night... *In English.*

Power Poison (2009)

33m USA Vahram Hakobyan (D) (P) (W) David Waterman (P)

A money laundering criminal outfit trying to stay as low profile and virtuous as possible finds itself assisting and then fighting a new terrorist attack while its rising star tries to figure where he fits.

Soy Milk (2010)

7m Australia Veeran Naran (D) (W) (P)

A romantic clash of cultures.

Telefone (2010)

4m USA Jeffrey Bliss (D) (W)

Amidst the loneliness of two isolated individuals, mysterious gift boxes containing rotary telephones begin appearing around them with the promise of connection to better times and

places. However, the increasing number of calls overwhelms a maniacal switchboard operator and ultimate destruction is never far away."

Zimbabwe (2009) 16m USA Anjuli Hinds (D) (W) Sylwia Dudzinska (P)

Amidst the turmoil and uncertainty of a militant regime, two young children of Zimbabwe are forced into a fight they hardly understand when they are pitted one against the other during a sudden farm invasion."

ANIMATION and MUSIC VIDEO

The Gift of the Magi (2010)

12m Animation Japan Toshikazu Ishii

A heartwarming story about Jim, an apprentice magician, and his wife, Della, set on Christmas Day. Della has her beautiful, long hair cut off and sells it in order to buy Jim a present. In the evening, Jim arrives home in high spirits, but is stunned to see Della looking so different. *In Japanese with English subtitles*

sketchi (2010)

2m Animation Canada Lily Sun (D)

A girl struggles to revive her beloved dog.

Silent Noise - Pulse (2010)

6m Music Video USA Prince Bagdasarian (D) (W); Albert Viras (P)

When you don't want to be saved... *English*

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The 13th annual Arpa International Film Festival runs September 21-26 at the Egyptian Theatre located at 6712 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90028. All-Access VIP Gold Passes are currently on sale for \$120. Individual screening passes go on sale September 10. For more information about press, sponsorship and advertising opportunities, visit www.affma.org or call 323-663-1882.

AFFMA

The annual film festival is the signature event of **Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art (AFFMA)**. Founded in 1995 for the purpose of enhancing the creative environment of the Los Angeles community, AFFMA is a non-profit organization that supports artists who bridge the cultural divide. AFFMA annually stages the festival, concerts, art exhibits, networking events, and film benefits. To send AFFMA a tax-deductible donation, please mail donations to AFFMA - 2919 Maxwell St., Los Angeles, CA 90027. All donations go towards the production of AFFMA's annual film festival. www.affma.org

ARMENIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is the largest Armenian business organization in the United States. With more than 400 members, the Chamber is committed

to sound, stable economic growth, working to increase success by encouraging growth of existing businesses and cultivating new ventures. Visit www.armenianchamber.org for more information.

ARMIN T. WEGNER HUMANITARIAN AWARD is named after German author and human rights activist Armin Theophil Wegner (October 16, 1886 – May 17, 1978). His photographs documenting the plight of the Armenians comprise the core of witness images of the Genocide. He was subsequently interned in Nazi concentration camps for denouncing the persecution of Jews in Germany. He died in exile at age 92 in Rome.

AT&T REAL YELLOW PAGES AND YP.COM presents the festival's second annual AT&T Award for Environmental Conservation and Stewardship. The award highlights the shared commitment between sponsor AT&T and the festival to foster green initiatives in cinema. Visit YP.COM, the new YELLOWPAGES.COM website for more information.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA & INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles is responsible for providing services to Armenian citizens and US residents in the Western United States. Under the Consulate's auspices, the film festival will celebrate the 19th anniversary of Armenian Independence on the fest's opening night, Tuesday, September 21 at the Egyptian Theatre. For more information about the Consulate, please visit www.armeniaconsulatela.org.

THE FRANCOPHONE & FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF LOS ANGELES AND ORANGE COUNTY

An organization dedicated to promoting the development of trade, business, products and culture between the USA and countries which belong to the International Organization of Francophonie. For further information, visit www.fcclaoc.com

SOURCE: ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL