

## FILM SCREENING

# Charents: In Search of my Armenian Poet

Director: Shareen Anderson



*Charents: In Search of My Armenian Poet* explores the life and work of one of Armenia's best-loved poets, Yeghishe Charents, who was tragically killed in a Stalinist prison in 1937 in mysterious circumstances. Who was this man, this poet? If you asked anyone today, without hesitation they would say Charents was the poet of the people. A man who knew, in fact, lived through, his country's tumultuous history: witnessing the Genocide against his people, experiencing the loss of Armenia's historic homeland, and the despair and hunger that followed – civil war and then REVOLUTION that brought a new hope, only to be followed by the gloom and terror of the Stalinist years. More than just a victim of the times, Charents became a martyr to his people and many consider him to be the father of modern

Armenian literature. This literary travelogue takes viewers on a journey from Armenia to the poet's birthplace in Kars, Turkey, with Krikor Babakhanyan - a poet in his own right – who, together with his friend and historian Volodya Arushanyan, set off to discover Charents' birth home in Kars. Travelling through Armenia, Georgia, and Turkey, Krikor and Volodya make new acquaintances that share their enthusiasm for Charents' poetry. Along their path, the inimitable beauty of the Transcaucasian mountainous landscape is revealed. Weaving in between Krikor's journey to the poet's birthplace are stylized readings of Charents' poems and interviews with experts and ordinary people, creating a fascinating narrative of the poet's life and works.

Shareen Anderson is a director, producer, writer and an award-winning independent filmmaker based in Brooklyn, New York and Johannesburg, South Africa and the founder of Fort Greene Filmworks, a company that specializes in documentary filmmaking. Shareen co-directed and co-produced with filmmaker Lisa Henry the critically-acclaimed eight-part documentary series entitled "Saving Soweto" for Al Jazeera English. A California native, she has worked extensively in the US, Russia, Armenia, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, Ukraine, France, England, and South Africa.



Running time: 99 minutes

Chair: Ani King-Underwood

**Friday 28 October, 6.30pm**

**Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre (Brunei Gallery Building)**

Recommended donation £7, concession £5

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