

AGBU  
ARTS

ARMENIANS  
IN FILM  
FRESNO

FEATURING WORKS  
BY ARMENIAN FILMMAKERS

2024  
FILMMAKERS

**SUNSET**

Kristine Khanamiryan

**CROSSING THE BLUE**

Victoria Aleksanyan

**DEHATSI – I WAS  
ANOTHER PLACE**

Tatiana Boudakian

**STONES**

Arman Ayzazyan

**THE ROAD (Ճանապարհ)**

Charlotte Mungomery, featuring the  
Zela Margossian Quintet

**THE MUD**

Vahan Grigoryan

FEB.16.24 | 5:30 PM

THE PETERS EDUCATION CENTER AUDITORIUM  
(FRESNO STATE UNIVERSITY)  
Fresno, CA





## ABOUT AGBU ARTS

Armenian culture is as deep as its ancient roots, as rich as its mastery of diverse art forms, and as inventive and ingenious as its people. For this reason, AGBU Arts has become a driving force for developing and showcasing Armenian artists and performers while treating audiences to experiences that reveal the transcendent human spirit in the Armenian context.

Central to AGBU Arts' mission is introducing Armenian culture and traditions to audiences worldwide. The **AGBU Musical Armenia Program** hosts musicians from around the world in Yerevan each summer; **Armenians in Film at Lincoln Center** showcases the works of award-winning filmmakers at one of the country's leading film presenting venues; and **AGBU Performing Artists in Concert at Carnegie Hall** gives young Armenian musicians the unique opportunity to perform on one of the world's most famous stages.

Together with other global AGBU Chapters, AGBU Arts organizes performance and exhibition opportunities to support and increase exposure to Armenian creatives. These artists works have been featured in venues such as **Shinjuku Tsunohazu Kumin Hall in Tokyo, Caixa Forum in Barcelona, Cadillac Shanghai Concert Hall in Shanghai, Salle Cortot in Paris, Frankston Arts Centre in Melbourne and The Concourse in Sydney**. They have also participated in collaborations with institutions such as **Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Weill Institute of Music at Carnegie Hall, Centre Pompidou, the MET Museum, and countless others**.

For more information, and to support AGBU Arts, visit [www.agbu.org/arts](http://www.agbu.org/arts).



## AGBU ARTS CREATIVE TEAM

Anita Anserian, Advisor

Hayk Arsenyan, Director, AGBU Arts

Naheed Elyasi, Director, Marketing

Karen Papazian, Director, Development & Outreach

Anna Naumenko, Manager, Special Events

Ashley Toner, Coordinator, AGBU Arts

Yuqun Xing, Manager, Marketing

Stephen Colangelo, Coordinator, Social Media

Giovanni Bernal, Graphic Designer

## AGBU

The **Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)** is the world's largest non-profit organization devoted to upholding the Armenian heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs. Each year, AGBU is committed to making a difference in the lives of 500,000 people across Armenia, Artsakh and the Armenian diaspora. Since 1906, AGBU has remained true to one overarching goal: to create a foundation for the prosperity of all Armenians.

To learn more, visit [www.agbu.org](http://www.agbu.org).

# PROGRAM

ARMENIANS  
IN FILM  
FRESNO



## Sunset

by Kristine Khanamiryan

With sunlight quickly fading on the horizon, a student goes on a fantastic journey contemplating the importance of happiness and budding friendships versus their studies.



### Kristine Khanamiryan

Kristine Khanamiryan is an animator and TUMO student. She is currently studying graphic design at the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia and is skilled in designing characters for animation, comics, and more.

Khanamiryan has previously worked as a color artist for MultArt+ Studio, where she assisted in color grading some of their upcoming films and animated series. She is passionate about creating her own content and hopes for her work to be available and known worldwide in the future.



## Crossing the Blue by Victoria Aleksanyan

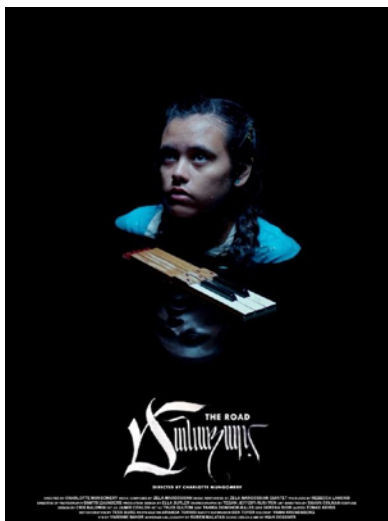
Anoush, an emigrant, who fled post-soviet Armenia from her abusive husband, is facing eventual deportation years later...



### Victoria Aleksanyan

Victoria is a director from Armenia. She holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Cinematography Production from Columbia University School of Arts. Her student short film "Caregivers" premiered at Armenia's largest and the most celebrated film festival - Golden Apricot IFF in 2014 and won Best Foreign Picture award at Sunset Film Festival in Los-Angeles, USA. "Crossing the blue", a narrative short, co-written, directed and co-produced by Victoria, is Armenia/Netherlands/USA co-production. The film premiered in July 2022, at Golden Apricot IFF's Official Competition, and internationally at Cinemed Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival's Official Competition. The film received "Best Actress" Award in Malta Short Film Festival, and "Best Cinematography" Award in Yerevan Short Film Festival, Armenia.





## The Road (Ճանապարհ)

by Charlotte Mungomery, feat. the Zela Margossian Quintet

The poetic vision of director Charlotte Mungomery converges with the spellbinding score of Armenian-Australian jazz band, Zela Margossian Quintet in THE ROAD ‘Ճանապարհ’.

This international art-film collaboration catches you from its opening, luring you into a liminal desert space, blurring the bounds between diorama and reality.

Circumnavigate these stories of isolation and connection through the opulent and atmospheric eye of a filmmaking collective poised from their recent experimental opera film, ‘A Delicate Fire’.

ZMQ’s sonic landscape is amplified by international contributors: Armenian calligrapher, Ruben Malayan and Dutch visual artist, Saskia Boelsums - who add to the mystique of this rich tapestry of awe, causation, and revelation.

Witness the overlapping of these disparate vignettes in the entrancing physically and figuratively circular narratives of these characters brought together by a temporally ambiguous fate.



# The Road (Ճանապարհ)



## Charlotte Mungomery

Charlotte Mungomery is a Director & Artist based in Eastern Australia.

Known for her signature style, Charlotte's work focuses on experimental filmmaking; playing daringly with narrative & aesthetic abstractions. Charlotte's background as an APDG award winning production designer informs her formally inventive & subversive approach to cinema & art creation. Her work plays daringly with narrative & aesthetic abstractions.

Charlotte's filmography includes A DELICATE FIRE, UNTIL WE TOUCH, THE ROAD and THIS IS NOT HERE. This work has been featured in film festivals across Australia and internationally. Her short documentary project, UNTIL WE TOUCH was selected for Melbourne Documentary Film Festival, Atlanta DocFest, Montreal Independent Film Festival & won 'Best Film' at Seoul International Short Film Festival. It is now exhibited at the Swedish Postal Museum in Stockholm. Her short jazz film THE ROAD premiered on NOWNESS.

Charlotte co-created and production designed the feature film A DELICATE FIRE for Pinchgut Opera Company. A DELICATE FIRE was part of the official selection at the 2022 Revelation Perth International Film Festival. Last year Charlotte was selected to attend Playlab Films Creators Lab 'Filming in The Amazon' where she directed the short film THIS IS NOT HERE under the mentorship of Apichatpong Weerasethakul. This film was selected as part of a group exhibit with Weerasethakul at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival and is part of the official selection at this year's Melbourne International Film Festival, SXSW Sydney & Vancouver International Film Festival.

Charlotte is currently developing and writing her solo directorial debut feature TOAD MOUTH.



## The Zela Margossian Quintet

The Zela Margossian Quintet is an ARIA nominated ethno-jazz band based in Sydney, performing original works and arrangements carrying influences from Armenian traditional music.

Composed of talented and multicultural musicians from Sydney, the Zela Margossian Quintet creates an exotic musical atmosphere that is sure to take you on an emotive and pleasurable journey. Transition, the band's debut album, received an ARIA nomination for Best World Music Album category in October 2019. The Quintet held their debut performance at the prestigious Sydney Opera House in December 2020, and have since participated in different festivals in Sydney and around the world such as the International Women's Jazz Festival, the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz and Blues, the Sydney Festival, and the Beirut International Jazz Festival.



## The Mud by Vahan Grigoryan

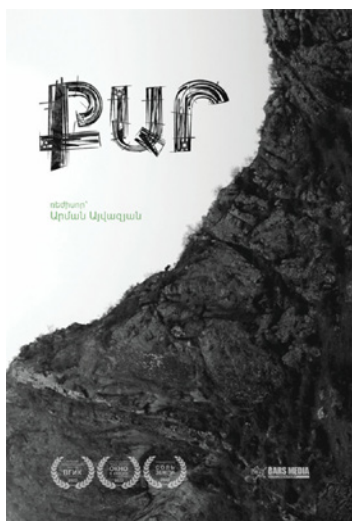
Rafael is approaching his home. At his entryway, he notices a lone goose. No one in the village keeps geese. Upon rushing to catch the goose, he leaves a path of muddy footprints behind.

Shortly after Rafael leaves for the mountains, Ashkhen, his wife, returns home. When she and her neighbors follow the trail of muddy footprints and feathers outdoors, they conclude that an angel must have visited her home.



### Vahan Grigoryan

Vahan is an aspiring film director and screenwriter, who was born and grew up in Yerevan, Armenia. He is an international relations specialist by trade but has never worked in the field. In 2021, Vahan decided to embrace his childhood passion for filmmaking by writing and directing his debut short film, "The Mud". The film won "Best Director" and "The Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinematography Special Prize" at the 2022 Yerevan International Short Film Festival. Currently, Vahan is in the post-production stage of his second short film, "The Egg".



## Stones

by Arman Aivazyan

The brutal Nagorno-Karabakh War of 2020 ended in a Russian-mediated ceasefire forcing Armenia to cede territory it had controlled to Azerbaijan. As a result, thousands of Armenians living in these regions were forced to leave their homes. Days before the handover deadline, a group of volunteers risk their lives to enter the Lachin region to search for and save the beautiful, ancient sacred Armenian stone inscriptions known as “khachkars,” from destruction.



### Arman Aivazyan

Arman Aivazyan was born in 1994 in Yerevan, Armenia. He graduated from the Armenian Pedagogical Institute in 2016 with a focus in film directing. He later attended the Russian State University of Cinematography named after Sergei Gerasimov (VGIK), where he graduated in 2022 with a specialization in the department of directing non-fiction films.

Arman now works as a documentary filmmaker in his native country of Armenia and has seen his work showcased at several prestigious film festivals, including but not limited to the Silver Scad Film Festival (Sevastopol, 2022 Winner: Best Director), the Golden Short Film Festival (Avezzano, 2022), the Prague International Film Awards (Prague), and the Window to Europe Film Festival (St. Petersburg).