



**ARMENIAN  
FILM FESTIVAL  
AUSTRALIA**

**SYDNEY, 6-15 SEPTEMBER  
MELBOURNE, 18-20 OCTOBER  
2019**

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# WELCOME

Welcome to the 4th edition of the Armenian Film Festival Australia!

Film is such a powerful medium for sharing the stories of the Armenian people. This year, we have an outstanding line up of films ranging from theatrical fantasy, outrageous comedy, heart wrenching drama and nostalgic documentaries from around the globe.

We are honoured to pay tribute to legends past and celebrate today's heroes. We'll uncover Armenia like you've never seen it before plus shine a spotlight on Artsakh. With such a diverse program there is absolutely a film for everyone.

International festival guests always inspire passionate discussions through Q&A sessions, and we have a record 9 guests this year! We are also incredibly proud that 50% of our filmmakers this year are women. Be sure to take the opportunity of attending a Q&A session and meeting our wonderful filmmakers.

Finally, we are delighted to be welcoming our Melbourne community into the festival this year!

We hope you enjoy your Armenian Film Festival experience!

**MARGARET CHATER**  
**HOURE DEMIRJIAN**

Founders – Directors

# LORIK

## SYDNEY OPENING NIGHT FILM

The latest feature from Armenian cinema royalty Michael Poghosyan, this magical tale follows the journey of the highly revered, yet monstrously egocentric stage actor Lorik. Living in a fantasy world of played roles, Lorik is his characters on and off the stage with a single mindedness that pushes his loved ones away.

When a behind the scenes deal threatens his beloved theatre, a freak accident leaves Lorik with the magical ability of jumping from one body to another and experiencing everything that person experiences. Journeying down a rabbit hole of experiences from friend to foe, will challenge Lorik's missing empathy and become his greatest performance.

95 MIN | DRAMA | ARMENIA | 2018 | DIR: ALEXEY ZLOBIN  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ | ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



### INTRODUCTION

by Martin Minasyan  
(producer).

▶ SYD: SCREENING + GALA  
SAT, 7 SEP, 7PM

▶ MEL: SCREENING  
FRI, 18 OCT, 9PM

# OPENING NIGHT GALA

## SYDNEY

Join us after the screening of *Lorik* for the official after-party!

Enjoy a festival cocktail, canapés, a chance to win prizes and enjoy Armenian music from DJ Rob!

Plus a special performance by Masha Mnjoyan, winner of The Voice Armenia, accompanied on guitar by the talented Sako Dermenjian.

Expect a great night to celebrate the opening of the film festival. Ticket price includes: Film + after-party, including one drink (beer or wine), canapés and live entertainment.

Plus our bespoke festival cocktail makes a comeback! Enjoy an *Armenian Kiss Martini*, available at the Events Bar throughout the festival. Features pomegranate juice of course!



# AZNAVOUR: AUTOBIOGRAPHIE

## SPECIAL TRIBUTE

A momentous documentary honoring the life of legendary Charles Aznavour. Combining imagery, dialogue and song, this feature follows the private and public story of a career that spanned a lifetime and inspired millions.

The close relationship between the singer and filmmaker allows for a unique, intimate portrait that should not be missed. Discover Aznavour's special relationship with Frank Sinatra, Liza Minelli and Ray Charles. A must-see for all those who wish to honour the singer's memory.

92 MIN | DOCUMENTARY | FRANCE | 2018 | DIR: MARC DI DOMENICO  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ | FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



In honour of the first anniversary of the death of Charles Aznavour.

Sydney session includes a live music performance.

▶ SYD: TRIBUTE  
FRI, 6 SEP, 7:30PM

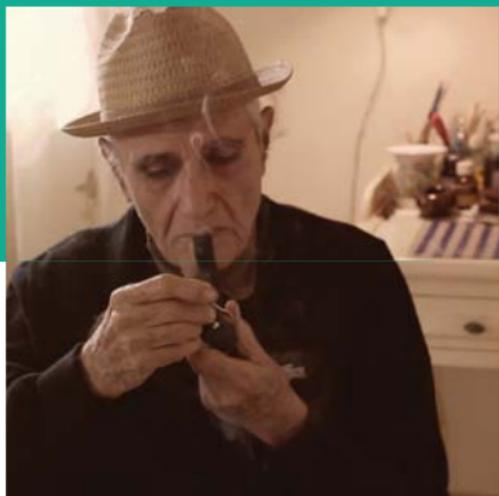
▶ MEL: SCREENING  
FRI, 18 OCT, 6:45PM

# WE ARE EGYPTIAN ARMENIANS

A fascinating documentary about how Egypt has been a special homeland for Armenians. The film looks at the stories that were transmitted from generation to generation and how the community preserved their language, culture and heritage by building their own schools, sporting clubs and churches.

Furthermore, it reveals how the Armenians contributed to the Egyptian social and economic life and enriched their new homeland.

86 MIN | DOCUMENTARY | EGYPT | 2016 | DIR: WAHEED SOBHI  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ | ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



## Q&A

with filmmakers  
Waheed Sobhi and  
Hannan Ezzat from  
Egypt, will follow the  
screening.

▶ SYD: SCREENING + Q&A  
**SUN, 8 SEP, 1:30PM**

# SEARCHING

## SPECIAL SCREENING

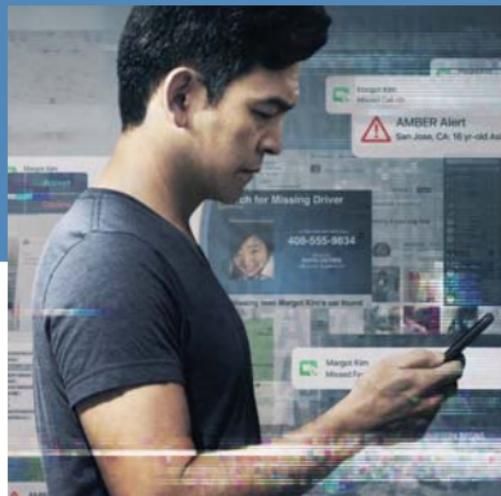
*Searching* was released globally in 2018, grossing \$75M at the box office and receiving critical acclaim. This special screening by award-winning Armenian screenwriter/producers gives audiences a chance to see the film (and meet the filmmakers!)

David Kim (John Cho) becomes desperate when his 16-year-old daughter, Margot, disappears and an immediate police investigation leads nowhere. He soon decides to search the one place that no one else has: Margot's laptop.

Hoping to trace her digital footprints, David contacts her friends and looks at photos and videos for any possible clues to her whereabouts, discovering more questions than answers.

102 MIN | DRAMA / THRILLER | USA | 2018

DIR: ANEESH CHAGANTY | SUITABLE FOR AGE 15+ | ENGLISH



### Q&A

with Sev Ohanian  
(writer & producer)  
and Natalie Qasabian  
(producer) will follow  
the screening.

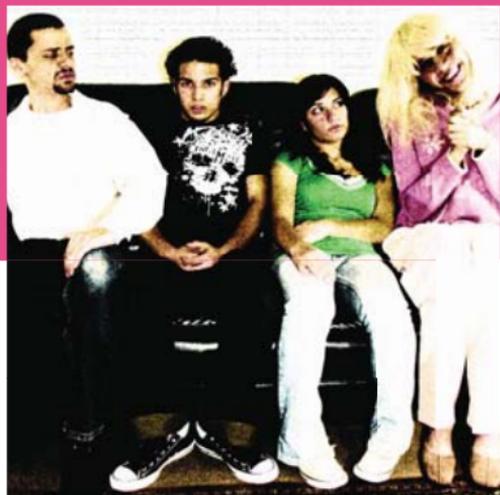
▶ SYD: SCREENING + Q&A  
**SUN, 8 SEP, 4:15PM**

# MY BIG FAT ARMENIAN FAMILY

A laugh-out-loud slapstick comedy about the craziness of Armenian families!

Before jumping head first into the American film industry, when writer/producer of *Searching* Sev Ohanian was 18-years-old he began making short comedic videos about his Armenian culture that he uploaded to YouTube. These videos became incredibly popular and led to him writing, directing and producing the feature film *My Big Fat Armenian Family* at the age of 20 with a budget of \$800. This film found international success both financially and critically, with an almost cult-like following. Sydney audiences are in for a treat! Join fellow Armenians to proudly laugh at ourselves and our parents on the big screen!

100 MIN | COMEDY | USA | 2008 | DIR: SEV OHANIAN  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ | ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



## INTRODUCTION

by Sev Ohanian  
(filmmaker).

▶ SYD: SCREENING  
**SUN, 8 SEP, 7:30PM**

# MOSKVICH, MY LOVE

Hamo, an old farmer lives with his wife in a remote village in the mountains of Armenia. The money their son sends them from Russia just allows them to survive. But Hamo nourishes a dream of acquiring a Moskvich, the most beautiful car in the world, the one the Soviets had promised and that he never had.

The Soviet Union is gone, but Hamo's dream remains. He learns that there is one for sale in a nearby village...

87 MIN | DRAMA | ARMENIA / FRANCE | 2014 | DIR: ARAM SHAHBAZIAN  
SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES | ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



▶ SYD: SCREENING  
**FRI, 13 SEP, 7:30PM**

# LUDWIG THE HEDGEHOG

Arthur is a successful lawyer with one goal in life – winning. He doesn't care if his defendant is innocent or guilty. For him, life consists of predators and prey, and he is determined never to be the prey. Arthur meets Mary, a wheelchair bound translator of fiction who lives in the care of her devoted admirer Karen, a struggling actor and Arthur's good friend. Arthur and Mary don't see eye to eye... at first. Perhaps she can make him a better man.

But Arthur's happiness might just come at the price of betrayal.

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87 MIN | DRAMA | ARMENIA | 2018 | DIR: MHER MKRTCHYAN  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ | ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



▶ SYD: SCREENING  
FRI, 13 SEP, 9:30PM

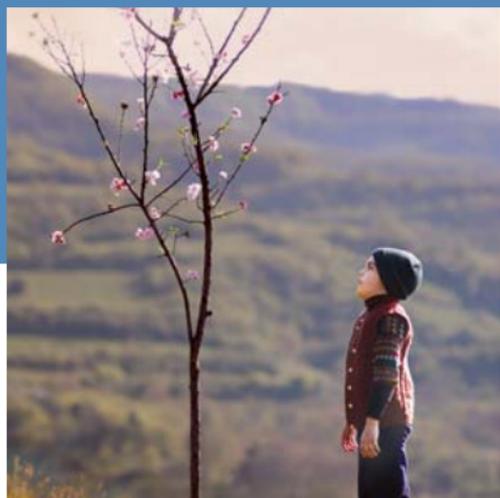
# COMING HOME

## SPOTLIGHT ON ARTSAKH

A touching tale of a six year old boy who's father is away fighting in the Artsakh war, and who has become the 'man of the house'. When his father returns home to the village, his son is faced with the unexpected struggle of suddenly having another male as the head of the family, and a man he does not remember.

A psychological conflict takes place as father and son try to find their place and once again become a complete family. A heart wrenching and joyous film that will stay with you long after the credits roll.

87 MIN | DRAMA | RUSSIA / ARMENIA | 2018 | DIR: DARYA SHUMAKOVA  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ | ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



*Coming Home* will be preceded by two short Artsakh based documentaries, *Motherland* and *Coming from the End – April Diaries*.

▶ SYD: SCREENING  
**SAT, 14 SEP, 6:30PM**

▶ MEL: SCREENING  
**SUN, 20 OCT, 3:30PM**

# SPOTLIGHT ON ARTSAKH

## MOTHERLAND

*Motherland* follows a group of women who work full-time clearing Artsakh of landmines for the HALO trust. These courageous women put their lives at risk, yet still face the stigma of being independent, working women in this traditional country. *Motherland* follows not only their dangerous work, but also the pain of their pasts and their dreams for the future.

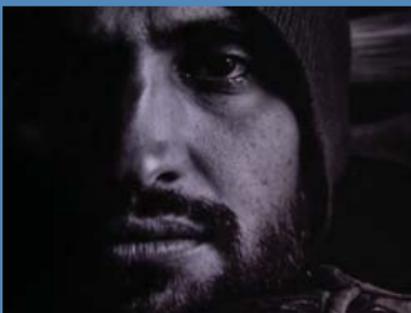


20 MINS | DOCUMENTARY | ARTSAKH | 2017  
DIR: EMILY MKRTICHIAN, JESSE SOURSOURIAN  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ | ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

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## COMING FROM THE END – APRIL DIARIES

A soldier-photographer returns physically from the April War, but only five months after his return is he able to open his April Diary for the world.



7 MINS | DOCUMENTARY | ARMENIA | 2017  
DIR: HASMIK SMBATYAN | SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+  
ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

# ROAD TO REVOLUTION

Five short films by 5 women filmmakers take us from Genocide to Earthquake to the Velvet Revolution. A fascinating journey through Armenia's recent history.

**SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+**  
**ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

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## UNDER THE WALNUT TREE

The story of a boy who is displaced after the massacres of this family. Loosely based on the childhood of Shahan Natalie.

**6 MINS | ANIMATION | USA / ARMENIA | 2018**  
**DIR: LEAH BEDROSSIAN PETERSON**

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## MUSA DAGH: THE ROAD HOME

This inspiring documentary is about the descendants of the brave Musa Dagh survivors who make the pilgrimage to the land of their ancestors, to uphold their traditions against a challenging backdrop in Turkey.

**53 MINS | DOCUMENTARY | ARMENIA | 2016**  
**DIR: MARIAM OHANYAN**

### Q&A

with filmmaker of *Musa Dagh*, Mariam Ohanyan will follow the screening.



▶ **SYD: SCREENING + Q&A**  
**SUN, 15 SEP, 2PM**

▶ **MEL: SCREENING**  
**SUN, 20 OCT, 12:30PM**

# ROAD TO REVOLUTION

## MY NEW YEAR

Based on the filmmaker's own childhood. A father and his two children are left without a home or mother after the 1988 Spitak earthquake, but by New Year's eve, they must find strength to continue.

27 MINS | SHORT | ARMENIA | 2018

DIR: ARUSYAK SIMONYAN

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## WAY BACK HOME

A road-documentary filmed in 2016. World renowned Armenians – singer Serj Tankian, filmmaker Atom Egoyan, actress Arsinée Khanjian, comedian Vahé Berberian and filmmaker Eric Nazarian join forces to address civic rights issues in Armenia and observe the Parliamentary Elections in 2017.

33 MINS | DOCUMENTARY | ARMENIA | 2018

DIR: SEDA GRIGORYAN

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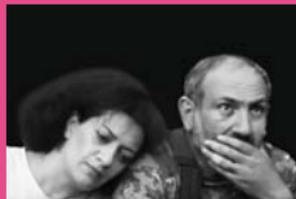


## HER REVOLUTION

Told from the perspective of Anna Hakobyan, the wife of Nikol Pashinyan, about the events of April-May of 2018 that came to be known as the Velvet Revolution, which led to regime change in Armenia.

18 MINS | DOCUMENTARY | ARMENIA | 2018

DIR: NVARD HOVHANNISYAN



# HOTEL GAGARIN

A comedy about a group of Italian filmmakers who are sent to Armenia to shoot a film, hoping it will be their big break. When they arrive, a war breaks out and their crooked producer vanishes along with all their money.

Now abandoned in the secluded Hotel Gagarin and buried under snow, the team finds an original and unexpected opportunity of unforgettable happiness. An Italian production with Armenian heart.

93 MIN | COMEDY | ARMENIA / ITALY | 2018 | DIR: SIMONE SPADA  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ | ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



▶ SYD: SCREENING  
SAT, 14 SEP 9PM

# ARMENIA UNCOVERED

## SYDNEY CLOSING - FAMILY SESSION

Award-winning entertainer and comedian Kev Orkian takes us on a fun-filled journey to Armenia, a country with unbelievable hospitality, rich history, and unique culture.

Kev travels through ancient towns of Armenia and Artsakh, exploring beautiful cities, diverse religious architecture and breathtaking landscapes while tasting mouth-watering food. Among those interviewed are Henrikh Mkhitaryan, pop-sensation Sirusho and the late Charles Aznavour.

78 MIN | DOCUMENTARY | ARMENIA | 2018 | DIR: ANDY SIMON  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 15+ (15 YEARS AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED  
BY AN ADULT | ENGLISH



### Q&A

with Andy Simon (director), Kev Orkian (host) and Raffi Tanielian (producer) after the screening.

▶ SYD: SCREENING + Q&A  
**SUN, 15 SEP 5PM**

# FESTIVAL GUESTS

## KEV ORKIAN

The incredible host of *Armenia Uncovered*, Kev is one of the UK's finest, internationally acclaimed entertainers. Starring on stage, on screen and touring the globe with his One Man Piano Comedy Show, Kev's performed with Lionel Ritchie & Dame Edna, entertained troops in Afghanistan, and the Royal family!

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## ANDY SIMON

The director of *Armenia Uncovered*, Andy is an award-winning Australian-Armenian journalist and television producer/ director. Andy has worked extensively with the major Australian TV networks for 20+ years, producing Backyard Blitz, Better Homes and Gardens and MasterChef.

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## RAFFI TANIELIAN

Producer of *Armenia Uncovered*, Raffi is a London-based entrepreneur and Angel investor with companies including Bookpages.co.uk, Lastminute.com and hit movie productions such as "The Proposition" (2005). Raffi supports Armenian philanthropic activities, is a benefactor to the Armenian Paralympic Team and Trustee of the Tufenkian Foundation.

Kev, Andy and Raffi will be in Sydney for the screening of their film *Armenia Uncovered*. See page 17.

# FESTIVAL GUESTS

## SEV OHANIAN

LA based, multi-award winning screenwriter and producer with over a dozen indie feature credits. Sev's most recent film, *Searching*, which he co-wrote and produced, was released by Sony Screen Gems in 2018 and grossed over \$75M worldwide on a \$1M budget.

Currently he is in post-production on *Space Jam 2* for Warner Bros.

Sev is in Sydney for the screening of his films *Searching* and *My Big Fat Armenian Family*. See pages 8 & 9.

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## NATALIE QASABIAN

An LA based producer. She produced *Searching*, with Sev Ohanian, a thriller starring John Cho and Debra Messing. *Searching* premiered at Sundance 2018, won the Audience award and went on to gross \$75M worldwide at the box office. Currently she's in post-production on *Run* starring Sarah Paulson for Lionsgate.

Natalie is in Sydney for the screening of her film *Searching*. See page 8.



# FESTIVAL GUESTS

## MARTIN MINASYAN

Martin is the General Producer of the highly acclaimed film *Lorik*. Whilst an engineer, diplomat and banker by profession, Martin's love of the dramatic arts has been a passion since childhood. The tragic passing of his mother in 1972 led Martin to remove himself from the creative field, until now. Whilst the idea of the film *Lorik* was created by Michael Poghosyan it was welcomed by Martin, and the inner turmoil expressed through *Lorik* reflects much of both Michael's professional and Martin's personal journeys and gives the film its genuine raw emotion.

Martin is in Sydney for the screening of his film *Lorik*. See page 4.



## MARIAM OHANYAN

A multi-award winning filmmaker of 20 documentary films, participating in film festivals internationally. Since 2000 Mariam has been the director of Legal Gender Cultural Foundation LIZA and from 2004 the founder and director of International Women's Film Festival "KIN". She is also Associate Professor at Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinema Arts.

Mariam is in Sydney for the screening of her film *Musa Dagh: The Road Home*. See page 14.



# FESTIVAL GUESTS

## WAHEED SOBHI

Born in Cairo Egypt, Waheed is an award-winning film director with a decade long career in documentary film making. Waheed was the winner of Best Director at the Egyptian National Film Festival in 2017 and Best Director/ Producer at the Glendale International Film Festival in Los Angeles for his documentary *We Are Egyptian Armenians*.

Waheed is in Sydney for the screening of his film *We are Egyptian Armenians*.  
See page 7.

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## HANNAN EZZAT

Hannan started her career as an executive producer and researcher for documentary films in 2015. Her first film *We are Egyptian Armenians* has won numerous awards both in Egypt and internationally. She also works on her personal project as a freelancer photographer of Cairo's old streets and buildings.

Hannan is in Sydney for the screening of her film *We are Egyptian Armenians*.  
See page 7.



# SYDNEY SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

7:30PM **SPECIAL TRIBUTE** – Aznavour: Autobiographie

## SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

7PM **OPENING NIGHT GALA** – Lorik

## SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

1:30PM We are Egyptian Armenians + Q&A

4:15PM Searching + Q&A

7:30PM My Big Fat Armenian Family

## FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

7:30PM Moskvich, My Love

9:30PM Ludwig the Hedgehog

## SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

6:30PM Coming Home  
(+ Short doco's April Diaries, Motherland)

9PM Hotel Gagarin

## SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

2PM Road to Revolution + Q&A

5PM **CLOSING NIGHT** – Armenia Uncovered + Q&A

# SYD: TICKETS & VENUE

## VENUE

### EVENT CINEMA TOP RYDE

Top Ryde Shopping Centre  
Cnr Devlin St & Blaxland Rd  
Ryde NSW 2112

## VENUE PARTNER



## TICKETS

General Admission **\$24**

**OPENING NIGHT GALA** – Lorik **\$49.95**

**CLOSING NIGHT** – Armenia Uncovered

Family Ticket **\$70** (2A/2C – 15 and under)

Children 15 and under **\$15**

*\*Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult*

### **MULTI-FILM PASSES**

Discounts available for multi-film purchase

3 film pass **\$66 (save \$6)**

5 film pass **\$99 (save \$21)**

*\* Excludes Opening Night*

*\* Multi-film passes are for separate sessions for one person only*

*\* Sessions must be selected at time of booking*

**SYDNEY FULL FESTIVAL PASS** **\$240 (save \$49.95)**

All 11 sessions including Opening Night Gala

**GROUP BOOKINGS: 8+** **\$20**

*\* Excludes Opening Night*

*\* Community group bookings welcome. Please enquire directly for special rates.*

# SYD: TICKETS & VENUE

## HOW TO BUY TICKETS

**Online:** [www.stickytickets.com.au/affsydney](http://www.stickytickets.com.au/affsydney)

Major credit cards accepted. Amex & Paypal will incur fees.  
Booking fees apply (*fees range from \$1.50 – \$6.30 per ticket*).

**By Phone:** Telephone bookings are by credit card only.  
Booking fees apply. Phone the numbers below to book.

**Door sales:** Tickets available at the door if not sold previously.  
Cash or credit card accepted.

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## ENQUIRIES

**Elena:** 0414 990 434  
**Hilma:** 0411 405 371  
**Email:** [parev@affsydney.com](mailto:parev@affsydney.com)

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## PARKING

Validate parking ticket at Events  
Candy Bar for 4 hours free parking.  
Free parking after 6PM.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Events Cinema Top Ryde  
has lifts to all levels.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Doors open 15 minutes before session times. | No reserved seating. | Tickets are non-refundable. | Online ticket sales close 1 hour before session times. Box office opens 1 hour before the screening at the venue. Tickets are subject to availability. | Information is accurate as at 28 August 2019, but may change due to unforeseen circumstances. We reserve the right to withdraw, change and replace programs and screenings without notice. All rights reserved. Armenian Film Festival Australia Incorporated (INC1900444).



**MELBOURNE**

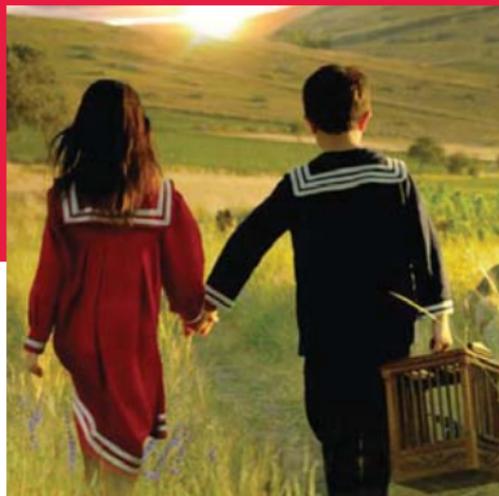
# LOST BIRDS

## MELBOURNE OPENING NIGHT FILM

The most celebrated film from the Sydney Armenian Film Festival 2018, *Lost Birds* features as a special screening to celebrate the opening of the inaugural Armenian Film Festival in Melbourne. An incredible film, suitable for all ages.

Beautifully filmed, *Lost Birds* is an historical fairy-tale like story told through the eyes of a young brother and sister, who are left behind in the mass deportations of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire of 1915. Bedo and Maryam, together with their wounded bird Bacik, embark on an unforgettable journey to search for their mother.

90 MIN | DRAMA / FAMILY | TURKEY | 2015 | DIR: ELA ALYAMAC,  
AREN PERDECI | SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES | TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



▶ MEL: SCREENING + GALA  
SAT, 19 OCT, 7PM

# OPENING NIGHT GALA

## MELBOURNE

Join us for the official after-party after the screening of *Lost Birds*, where you can enjoy a festival cocktail, canapés, a chance to win prizes and enjoy Armenian music from DJ MOO!

Expect a great night to celebrate the opening of the Armenian Film Festival in Melbourne.

**Ticket price includes:** Film plus after-party including canapés, entertainment, prizes and one drink (beer or wine 18+ only). Children's ticket includes one soft drink.

Plus our bespoke festival cocktail, the *Armenian Kiss Martini*, is available at the Rivoli Bar throughout the festival. Features pomegranate juice of course!



Armenian Kiss  
Martini

# MELBOURNE SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER

6:45PM	Aznavour: Autobiographie
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9PM	Lorik
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## SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

7PM	<b>OPENING NIGHT GALA</b> - Lost Birds
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## SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

12:30PM	Road to Revolution
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3:30PM	Coming Home (+ Short doco's April Diaries, Motherland)
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# MEL: TICKETS & VENUE

## VENUE

### VILLAGE CINEMAS RIVOLI

200 Camberwell Road,  
Hawthorn East  
VIC 3123

## VENUE PARTNER



## TICKETS

General Admission **\$24**

Early Bird **\$20**

Children 12 and under **\$15**

**OPENING NIGHT GALA** – Lost Birds **\$49.95**

Early Bird **\$45**

Children 12 and under **\$30**

*\*Early Bird discount for purchases before 30 September*

### MULTI-FILM PASSES

Discounts available for multi-film purchase

3 film pass **\$66 (save \$6)**

*\* Excludes Opening Night*

*\* Multi-film passes are for separate sessions for one person only*

*\* Sessions must be selected at time of booking*

**MELBOURNE FULL FESTIVAL PASS** **\$120 (save \$25.95)**

All 5 sessions including Opening Night Gala.

**GROUP BOOKINGS: 8+** **\$20**

*\* Excludes Opening Night*

*\* Community group bookings welcome. Please enquire directly for special rates.*

# MEL: TICKETS & VENUE

## HOW TO BUY TICKETS

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**Email:** [parev@affsydney.com](mailto:parev@affsydney.com)

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## PARKING

Camberwell Place Parking  
24 Camberwell Grove,  
Hawthorn East VIC 3123

## ACCESSIBILITY

Village Cinemas Rivoli  
has lifts to all levels.

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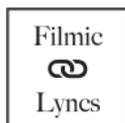
Armenia**Media** Inc



SBS Armenian Program

## FESTIVAL PARTNERS

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