



## PRESS RELEASE



### A THRILLING NEW RESTORATION OF

## SERGEI PARAJANOV'S HAKOB HOVNATANYAN (1967)

### Telluride Film Festival

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

The National Cinema Centre of Armenia (Yerevan), in association with Fixafilm (Warsaw/ Los Angeles), with the support of Kino Klassika Foundation (London) present a new restoration of Sergei Parajanov's *Hakob Hovnatanyan* (1967).

Legendary filmmaker Sergei Parajanov offers an overview of the portrait painting of the 'Raphael of Tiflis', Hakob Hovnatanyan. Combining sights and sounds from both Hovnatanyan's paintings and 19th century Tbilisi, Parajanov's short documentary can be seen as a stylistic precursor to his masterpiece, *The Colour of Pomegranates* (1969).

### ABOUT SERGEI PARAJANOV:

An Armenian born in Tbilisi, Sergei Parajanov (1924 – 1990) made significant contributions to Armenian, Georgian and Ukrainian cinema during the 1960s and 1980s. He invented his own flamboyant cinematic style, which, combined with his controversial lifestyle, led to repeated persecution, imprisonment and banning of his films. Key films include *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors* (1965), *The Colour of Pomegranates*, and *The Legend of Suram Fortress* (1985).

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

Hakob Hovnatanyan is the first film to be restored under the banner of the Hamo Bek-Nazarov Project, a collaborative programme between the National Cinema Centre of Armenia, Fixafilm and with financial support from Kino Klassika Foundation. The restoration was produced by the writer, filmmaker and programmer Daniel Bird. According to Bird, the project was inspired by a trip to Yerevan's Matenadaran, repository for the ancient manuscripts that feature in *The Colour of Pomegranates*:

"If Armenian miniatures are being preserved, studied and restored at Matenadaran, we have an opportunity to do the same with great films like Hakob Hovnatanyan," says Daniel Bird.

"We're excited to be supporting Daniel, the National Cinema Centre of Armenia and Fixafilm on the restoration of this influential short film. Parajanov was one of the great film artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century so we are delighted to bring this little known work to the attention of Telluride audiences," says Kino Klassika founder, Justine Waddell.

## **ABOUT THE RESTORATION:**

The director of the National Cinema Centre of Armenia, Shushanik Mirzakhanyan, negotiated the loan of the original film elements and personally delivered them on behalf of the Ministry of Culture of Armenia to Warsaw, Poland. The original camera negative were scanned at 4K using a pin-registered ArriScan, and restored to 4K resolution by Fixafilm under the supervision of Fixafilm co-founder Lukasz Ceranka. Colour grading was completed in Los Angeles by Fixafilm's head colourist Gosia Grzyb. Dr. James Steffen, author of 'The Cinema of Sergei Parajanov', was a consultant on the restoration.

## **ABOUT DANIEL BIRD:**

Daniel Bird has programmed retrospectives at BFI Southbank London, The Film Society of the Lincoln Center and Pompidou Centre Paris. He has co-curated exhibitions at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts (*The Listening Eye*) and The Horse Hospital (*Basha: The Unsung Hero of Polish Posters*). He has produced restorations (Walerian Borowczyk's *Goto, Isle of Love*, Andrzej Żuławski's *On the Silver Globe*, Aleksei German's *Khrustalyov, My Car!*), blu-ray box-sets (*Camera Obscura: The Walerian Borowczyk Collection, The Colour of Pomegranates, Heimat and Berlin Alexanderplatz*) and is the author of a book on Walerian Borowczyk, *Boro: Walerian Borowczyk* (Ed. Centre Georges Pompidou/ Carlotta Films/ Le Chineurs, 2017).

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL CINEMA CENTRE OF ARMENIA:**

Established in 2006, the National Cinema Centre of Armenia, is the successor of the legendary Armenfilm Studios named after the actor and director Hamo Bek-Nazarov. For over ten years, The National Cinema Centre of Armenia has played a vital role in contemporary Armenian film production as well as the restoration of Parajanov's masterpiece, *The Colour of Pomegranates*.

## **ABOUT FIXAFILM:**

With offices in both Warsaw and Los Angeles, Fixafilm, is an award-winning film restoration and post-production house, whose portfolio includes films by Andrzej Wajda (*Ashes, Danton and Korczak*), Walerian Borowczyk (*Story of Sin*) and Andrzej Żuławski (*On the Silver Globe*), Dario Argento (*Suspiria*), Jack Clayton (*The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*) and Howard Hawks (*Scarface*).

## ABOUT KINO KLASSIKA:

Kino Klassika creates programs of restorations, publications, art commissions, and events to spotlight Russian language cinema – a tradition that remains largely invisible to audiences outside Russia. Major projects include the *Eisenstein Programme* (a three year international programme to spotlight the work of pioneering filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein), *Nevaland* (a multimedia exhibition charting the history of St Petersburg on film) and ongoing Russian film retrospectives in London. Founded by acclaimed film and stage actress Justine Waddell, trustees are Professor Ian Christie, Daniel Jowell GC, Roger Munnings CBE. Our patron is Ralph Fiennes. Kino Klassika is a UK registered charity 1150791.

Hakob Hovnatanyan © The National Cinema Centre of Armenia 1967  
Restoration © The National Cinema Centre of Armenia 2018


## LINKS AND SOCIAL MEDIA:

For more information, images and interviews about the restoration of Hakob Hovnatanyan and the Hamo Bek-Nazarov Project, please contact Daniel Bird at [dtbird1@gmail.com](mailto:dtbird1@gmail.com).

Download production stills here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=15L6fwQ0ljhAiUl6mdTmWSLViEclnWXH>

Watch a film about the restoration:

 <https://vimeo.com/278668332/916a439c8b>

[www.hamobeknazarov.eu](http://www.hamobeknazarov.eu)

[www.ncca.am](http://www.ncca.am)

[www.fixafilm.pl](http://www.fixafilm.pl)

[www.kinoklassikafoundation.org](http://www.kinoklassikafoundation.org)

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