

## Persmap AMERIKATSI

Vanaf 22 augustus in de Nederlandse bioscopen

Uitgebracht door WW Entertainment



# AMERIKATSI

A MICHAEL GOORJIAN FILM

PEOPLE OF AIR PRODUCTIONS REUNION / MICHAEL GOORJIAN IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH PALOUEK PICTURES HIGH FILMS AND THE NATIONAL CINEMA CENTRE OF ARMENIA "AMERIKATSI" MICHAEL GOORJIAN HUVIK KEZCHIKIAN NELLY UVAROVA MIKHAIL TROJAN  
NARINE GRIGORYAN JEAN-PIERRE RISHANIAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GHASEM EBRAHIMIAN EDITOR BY ANDRANK BERBERYAN PRODUCED BY HERESSE SEDRAKYAN DESIGNER MARIO PARIAN EDITOR IN CHIEF MIKE SELIMON MICHAEL GOORJIAN CO-PRODUCER ANN VOSKARYAN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS R. PATRICK MALKASSIAN SERJ TANKEAN VARTAN GABSOUMANI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY R. PATRICK MALKASSIAN PRODUCED BY ARIANAN RISHANIAN PRODUCER SOL TRYON WRITER AND DIRECTOR MICHAEL GOORJIAN

Door en met Michael Goorjian

## Synopsis

Als kleine jongen is Charlie (Emmy Award winnaar Michael Goorjian) Armenië gedwongen ontvlucht. Als hij in 1948 terugkeert om te helpen met de wederopbouw, is niet iedereen gecharmeerd van de teruggekeerde "Amerikatsi". Ondanks alle tegenslagen heeft Charlie zijn kinderlijke verwondering voor de wereld behouden, zelfs als hij bij terugkomst gelijk onterecht in een Sovjet-gevangenis terechtkomt. Met een aanstekelijke positiviteit en charme maakt hij het beste van zijn gevangenschap waar hij de spaarzame lichtpuntjes gebruikt om hoop te houden tijdens de donkere dagen.

*Amerikatsi* is de eerste Armeense film ooit die op de beste internationale Oscar-shortlist staat en is gebaseerd op een waargebeurd familieverhaal van de Amerikaans-Armeense regisseur Michael Goorjian, die de film opdraagt aan zijn eigen grootvader.





@Shant Sevag

## Over Michael Goorjian

Michael Goorjian is een schrijver en filmmaker van Armeense afkomst, geboren en getogen in de San Francisco Bay Area. Goorjian won de Emmy Award voor Beste Bijrol in *David's Mother* samen met Kirstie Alley. Hij is ook bekend van zijn rol als Justin in de Golden Globe winnende serie *Party of Five*, en als Heroin Bob in de cultklassieker *SLC Punk*. Onlangs speelde hij samen met Robert De Niro in HBO's *The Wizard of Lies*. Andere film- en televisierollen vertolkte hij o.a. in *Leaving Las Vegas*, *Lie to Me*, *House*, *CSI* en *Without a Trace*.

Als regisseur kreeg Michael internationale erkenning voor zijn bekroonde speelfilmdebuut *Illusion*, waarin hij samen met Hollywood-

legende Kirk Douglas schittert. Michael's debuutroman, *What Lies Beyond the Star* werd in 2016 wereldwijd uitgebracht.

## Regievisie

Films about Armenia have mostly focused on the Genocide, which is crucial. But as a people, there is so much more to who we are! Our music, our food, our passion, our “over-the-top” generosity, our love for life. Amerikatsi celebrates and shares this side of Armenia with the world, a side which since my boyhood, I have longed to know and reconnect with.

In many ways, the main character Charlie's dream of returning to his homeland reflects the dream of not only the Armenian Diaspora, but hundreds of millions of people throughout the world who long to connect to their native land. For many, especially in America, we feel that far-away-land pulsing in our blood, calling for us to return. But, like Charlie, the reality of our ancestral homeland doesn't always turn out to be what we imagined it would be. The connection we long for is always just out of reach, as if residing on the other side of a prison wall.

Despite being a very small country, surrounded by adversaries, Armenia has a deep cultural history and a far reaching diaspora that have brought bits and pieces of this culture to the western world. After breaking free of Soviet control and the subsequent oligarchies that followed, Armenia is bursting with excitement and pent up passion. Amerikatsi is shining a light on that heart of what it means to be Armenian and the great hope that lies ahead. Unfortunately, as recent events show, you can not always control what others do and Armenia was recently thrown back into a war they did not want to

fight. Watching as members of our cast and crew headed to the front lines to defend their homeland mere months after we wrapped was heartbreaking. But even as the world continues to throw obstacles in the way, somehow the Armenian people are able to break through and hold the cultural ideals above the challenges that are constantly threatening to tear them down.



## Crew

Regisseur en scenario | Michael Goorjian

Producenten | Patrick Malkassian, Sol Tryon, Arman Nshanian, Tigran Patrick  
Malkassian, Serj Tankian Hovik Keuchkerian, Vartan Barsoumian

DOP | Tigran Ghasem Ebrahimian Hovik Keuchkerian

Production Design | Nerses Sedrakyan & Avet Tonoyants

Visual Effects | Dara Hamidi

Muziek | Miqayel Voskanyan

"I'm in complete awe of this charming and unique film. Michael Goorjian's performance is so nuanced and touching, it is absolutely tone perfect throughout."

- Atom Egoyan

**WINNER**  
GRAND JURY PRIZE  
BEST FEATURE NARRATIVE  
**WOODSTOCK**  
FILM FESTIVAL 2022

**WINNER**  
AUDIENCE AWARD  
**FILMFEST**  
**HAMBURG**  
**2022**

**WINNER**  
HOWARD WEXLER PRIZE  
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY  
**WOODSTOCK**  
FILM FESTIVAL 2022

**WINNER**  
BEST SCREENPLAY  
**Fargo**  
Film Festival  
2023

**WINNER**  
BEST FOREIGN FILM  
Festival Internazionale  
Salerno 2022

**WINNER**  
D'ARGENT PRIX DU JURY  
GENEVA  
Oriental Film  
Festival  
18th Edition  
2023

**WINNER**  
AUDIENCE AWARD  
Mystic  
Film Festival  
2022

**WINNER**  
BEST NARRATIVE  
FEATURE  
Mystic  
Film Festival  
2022

**WINNER**  
Prix du Public  
Long Métrage  
ONE Country ONE Film  
Nordic Issue International Film Festival  
2023

**WINNER**  
Prix du Jury Lyceen  
Long Métrage  
ONE Country ONE Film  
Nordic Issue International Film Festival  
2023

**WINNER**  
BEST COSTUME  
DESIGN  
Mystic  
Film Festival  
2022

**WINNER**  
BEST NARRATIVE  
FEATURE  
BIG APPLE FILM FESTIVAL  
NEW YORK 2022

**WINNER**  
BEST NARRATIVE  
FEATURE  
HAMAKAVI TORONTO  
POMEGRANATE  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2022

**WINNER**  
AUDIENCE AWARD  
HAMAKAVI TORONTO  
POMEGRANATE  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2022

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**CINEQUEST**  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2023

**WINNER**  
BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE  
Beloit  
International  
Film Festival  
2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**Glasgow**  
Film Festival  
2023

OPENING NIGHT  
FILM  
**GOLDEN**  
APRICOT  
YEREVAN INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2022

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
HEARTLAND  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**SALENTO**  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2023

