

# Saroyan Time in Orange County

By JANET SAMUELIAN

FRESNO -- When Paul Kalinian first unveiled his production "William Saroyan; The Man, The Writer" one year ago in the Saroyan Theatre, he didn't realize he was facilitating a national revival among Armenian-American schoolchildren. Hosting his 16mm-documentary in ten eastern cities, Kalinian experienced the most touching moments at Hovnanian School in New Jersey. Students barely into their teens took notes all during the showing, he said. One even managed to cover 17 pages. "That makes my six years of struggle worthwhile."

His reverence for the famed writer impelled Kalinian to tackle the near-impossible task of condensing the life of a genius into only one hour. He used some donations and mostly his own funds to create the engaging, moving and honest portrait.

Along with expert narration by veteran actor, Mike Connors, Saroyan's own voice is heard in English and Armenian. He reminisces about his sixty-year writing career as rare footage of home movies from family and Armenia are interspersed with original photographs and

interviews with associates. It is woven together seamlessly, and the music score by Paul Nazlikian completes the superior quality of the entire film. Best of all, it is informative for readers of all nationalities.

The documentary has debuted in the past two months in the metropolitan areas of Detroit, Philadelphia, New York and Boston to great acclaim. More than 2,000 people saw it. Students from NYU, Columbia, Bernard and Queens College participated in the NYC premiere. At the invitation of the Armenian Students Association/ARF Kalinian will present the Saroyan film at University of California, Irvine, on Sunday, May 3rd at 4:00 p.m. The only southland showing planned so far will include guests such as Hank Saroyan and other participants in the film-making. A cocktail reception will be held after the film showing; ticket prices are \$12 or \$6 for students with I.D.

The William Saroyan documentary is a must-see for anyone who is proud of being literate and Armenian. Any organizations wishing to sponsor future showings may call (209) 442-1711.