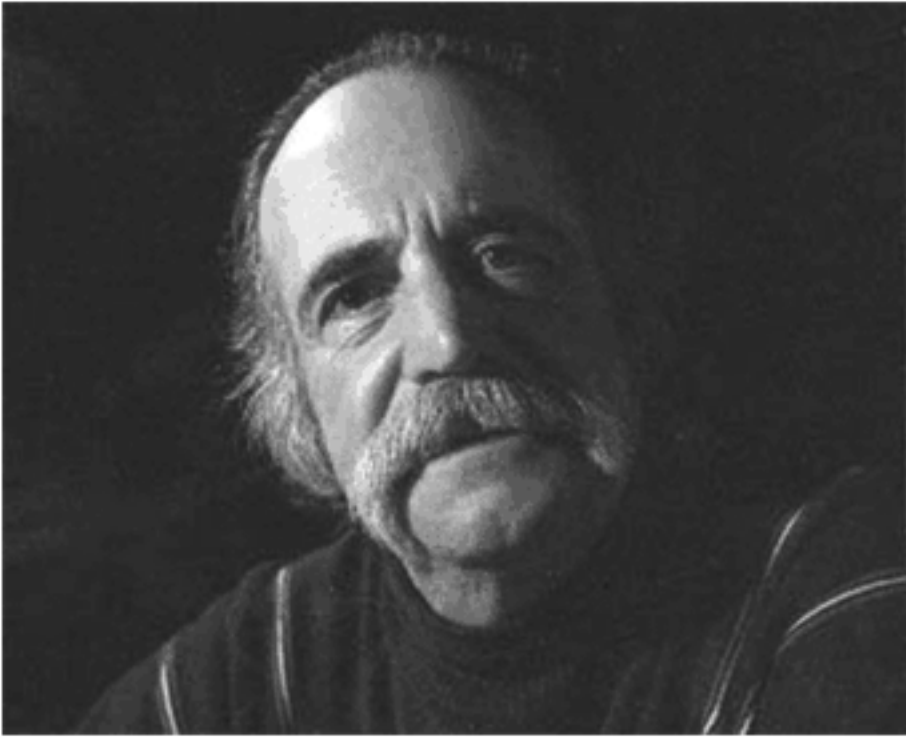


Documentary Review

"William Saroyan: The Man, The Writer"



William Saroyan
Photographed by Paul Kalinian March 26, 1976
By Arpineh Babakhanian

William Saroyan: The Man, The Writer extremely moved me, I saw it twice and was completely impacted in two different ways each time. The first time I viewed the film, it proved to be an introduction to a great writer, whom I had heard a great deal about. All my life I was aware that a man by the name, William Saroyan, existed, was a very talented writer and had a rich history to him. By watching the film, I truly found out who this "legend" was.

The second time I viewed the film, I picked up little details here and there, which took me deeper into the character of this man. His writings were brilliant and his personality shined through with every piece of writing that he did. It amazed me that despite William Saroyan's difficult life, he managed to give his public what they yearned for: heartfelt books and stories. William Saroyan was successful because he knew how to relate to his readers. The film taught me a lot not only about him, but myself as well. The little truths of life are real for everybody. Saroyan possessed the talent to convey universal themes to us through his writings. He was a very honorable man, worthy of all our attention and respect.

The film opened up a new doorway for me. I got the opportunity to have a glimpse of Saroyan's life. I felt I won't be the same again. The film has had an incredible impact on my life, to follow my goals and never give up, despite life's ups and downs.

My grandmother, Arshik Saroyan Tomassian, is third cousin with the late William Saroyan. That naturally makes me fifth cousin with this great writer. The love of writing is present in all of us. It has passed from generation to generation. We all work hard to keep this love alive in us. My grandmother encourages me greatly, on a day-to-day basis to never stop writing. With her encouraging words, I'm sure that this feeling will never depart from me. Hopefully I'll have the talent that she possesses and follow in her footsteps as far as writing goes. This love of writing in all of us comes from William Saroyan himself. The feeling is strong and untouchable. William, my grandmother and all of us are very well aware of that and will continue to pass on the love of writing to our future generations.

Also a great honor goes to Mr. Paul Kalinian for putting this masterpiece together. His long hours of effort and work shine through the film. He deserves much appreciation for his endurance and patience. With his never-ending efforts, he provided an opportunity for us to be acquainted with this great writer, William Saroyan.

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