

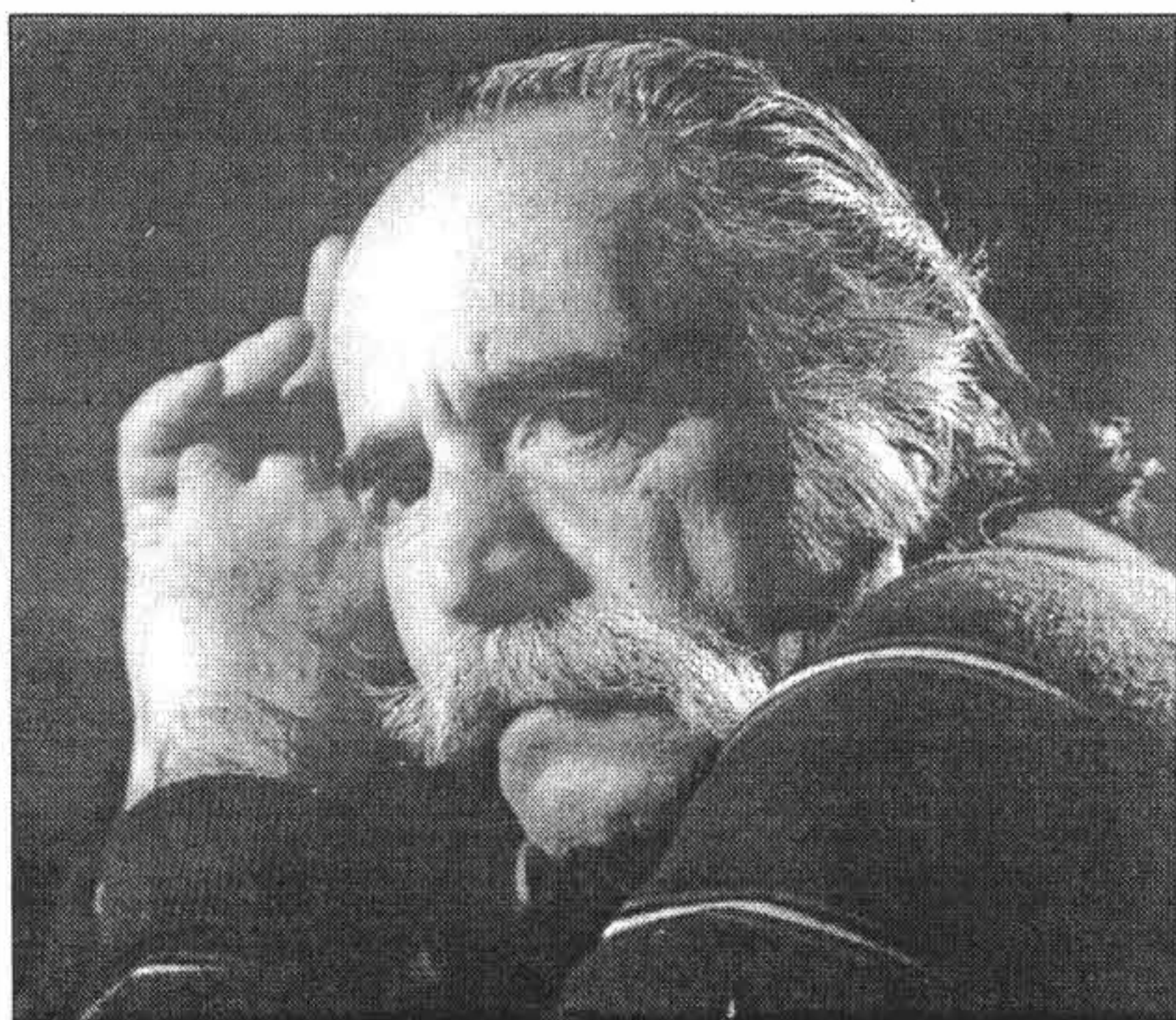
## William Saroyan Documentary Film Back By Popular Demand

NEW YORK, NY - Finally, after 32 touring stops, writer, producer, director Paul Kalinian is bringing his award-winning documentary, **William Saroyan: The Man, The Writer**, to New Jersey. The hour-long film, sponsored by the AGBU and St. Leon Armenian Church, will be screened on October 24, at 8 p.m. at St. Leon Armenian Church's

Abajian Hall in Fair Lawn, NJ.

Internationally renowned writer, playwright, and humanitarian, William Saroyan first came into prominence in 1934 at age 26 for his book, **The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze**. His first successful Broadway play was **My Heart's**

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**William Saroyan, photographed by Paul Kalinian on March 26, 1976.**

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in the Highlands, in 1939, and in the same year Saroyan became the first American writer to win both the Drama Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize for his play, **The Time of Your Life**. He refused to accept the Pulitzer Prize on the grounds that "Commerce should not patronize art..." and he added, "it is no more great or good than anything else I have written."

The documentary highlights Saroyan's personal life, character and writing career, along with his love and passion for Armenia, the land of his ancestors. Opening with Saroyan reminiscing about his past, the documentary portrays the writer's life in Fresno, California from the early 1900's until his death in 1981. It continues with Mike Connors' narration of Saroyan's 60-year writing career, based on biographies, interviews, recordings, newspapers, magazine articles, his works and Kalinian's personal experience with Saroyan. The film includes the books Saroyan had published during his lifetime, excerpts of his own voice spoken in English and Armenian, an original music score composed by Paul Nazlikian, graphical illustrations by Sarkis Muradyan, the city of Fresno -- past and present, on location re-enactment scenes, home movies, rare footage, photographs, memorabilia, and Saroyan's last visit to his ancestral homeland.

The presentation of the film will

be followed by a question-and-answer session conducted by Paul Kalinian, who will also discuss his encounters with Saroyan.

After its world premiere at Fresno's William Saroyan Theater in 1991, the documentary won six international film awards including the Leigh Whipper Gold Award for Best Documentary at the 18th Annual Philadelphia International Film Festival.

Since December 1995, under the exclusive sponsorship of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the film has been screened in 22 cities in 9 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, England, Belgium and France. To date, 10,000 people have seen the documentary during its tours.

Paul Kalinian is also a professional photographer, known for his portrait of Saroyan which was selected jointly by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. postal services for their 1991 commemorative postal stamps.

Further information and reservations may be obtained by contacting Ms. Veronica Asdoorian at (201) 261-0748, after 6 p.m., or Sonia Sungarian, AGBU, at (212) 765-8260, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Since seating is limited, reservations should be made early. St. Leon Armenian Church is located at 12-61 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ, just off Route 4.