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PUBLIC RELEASE

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William Saroyan: A Century of Saroyanesque

(For Immediate Release)
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Photo by: Arthur Tcholakian

On Saturday November 1, 2008, from 2 to 5 PM, the celebration of “William Saroyan: A Century of Saroyanesque” will reach to East Hollywood, a unique, diverse neighborhood located in the east side of the film capital. The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council (EHNC) in collaboration with the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), Cahuenga Branch, took that initiative. The celebration of Saroyan’s birth at the Library will mark the first of a serial of collaborations between EHNC and LAPL.

East Hollywood - Today, the sixth largest city of California, opened its doors for the Armenian Genocide survivors since the late 1800’s. Several years later Fresno was blessed with the birth of a genius. On August 31, 1908 a Pulitzer Prize-winning Armenian-American writer (author, novelist and playwright) William Saroyan was born. Hundred years later in different parts of the world, humanity celebrates the centennial of world renowned Armenian-American writer.

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The international fame of Saroyan reached every corner of the Earth; William Saroyan appeared in UNESCO's honorary calendar of 2008-2009. Some of Saroyan's famous writings are, "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze," "The Time of Your Life," "The Man with the Heart in the Highlands", "My Name is Saroyan," and many others. Saroyan was inimitably unique character who developed irreplaceable style of writing which was eventually coined as "Saroyanesque".

The program will feature the Los Angeles premier of a new one-hour documentary film about William Saroyan titled "Saroyan". The documentary was produced by KVPT Valley Public Television – Fresno, directed by Bob Tyrcha and released on Saroyan's birthday last August 31. Tyrcha's film is the story of Saroyan from the perspective of his friends, family, and people who observed his works. The film includes interviews with Saroyan, his writing, music, artworks, also never before seen photographs. A profound filmmaker, Hank Saroyan (William's nephew) will introduce the film lecturing about W. Saroyan in Hollywood industry: "A man for all reasons". In addition, Hank will show a short documentary directed by himself.

Dr. Minas Kodjoyan, will speak about his personal experience with Saroyan: "A day with the man of the century." Oshin Keshishyan, the publisher of the Armenian Reporter newspaper based in Los Angeles will talk about William Saroyan as a writer and as his friend which will be accompanied with a slide show. In 1982 Mr. Keshishyan transferred part of Saroyan's relics to Armenia which was Saroyan's desire.

The Syzygy Theatre Group (Martin Bedoian, Artistic Director; Katherine Bedoian, Managing Director) presents an act from William Saroyan's rarely-produced comedy "Love's Old Sweet".

William Saroyan expressed his inner emotions not only through pen but also through brush. His artworks were shown in several galleries and museums nationwide. Several abstractions executed by Saroyan from the Oshin Keshishyan collection will be exhibited at this free admission event.

Food and beverages from Dvin Restaurant will be served.

East Hollywood Neighborhood Council is the 89th certified NC in Los Angeles. EHNC was certified in 2007 and is actively representing the diverse community where over 50,000 people reside. To learn more about the activities of EHNC please visit www.easthollywood.net

Los Angeles Public Library, Cahuenga Branch is located at 4591 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90029 - (323) 664-6418. Opens Saturday Nov.1 from 10 AM to 6 PM.

"William Saroyan: A Century of Saroyanesque" start sharp at 2 PM

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