



## “Taniel”

### *Film Noir and Poetry handle the sensitive subject of the Armenian Genocide*

“Taniel” is a beautiful, dramatic and poetic short film about the last months of Armenian poet Taniel Varoujan, in the Genocide of 1915.

Stunning, filmed in the style of film noir, and both visually and narratively poetic in its creation, British director [Garo Berberian](#) looks to show the human spirit of an individual lost in tragedies is still relevant today. Both in Armenian and English, the film looks to take a different approach in dealing with a subject that is hotly denied in Turkey.

*“Varoujan was a sophisticated poet, a humanist who understood that a great calamity that was to befall him and his people and his words are prophetic. The vision in the film reflects his beautiful and surreal poems through his eyes, emotionally connecting the audience with what happened, focusing on the human, the individual and their thoughts. I really want to raise the awareness that what happened 100 years ago is still happening today”*

Unable to film in Istanbul, where Varoujan’s lived and wrote much of his works, the production team looked to recreate the historic look of the city in the Armenian town of Gyumri. Varoujan’s Armenian poetry is complemented by British writer Ben Hodgson’s verses that tell the story of the film narrated with profound emotion by Hollywood legend Sean Bean.

The film also features music by Philip Glass, Gyumri’s favourite son Tigran Hamasyan and Michael Nyman who composed music to raise funds for the 1988 Armenian earthquake

Taniel is currently taking part in the film festival circuit through 2018-2019 and ended the last year with the **Best Short Film award at ARPA International Film Festival** in Los Angeles, which is fantastic recognition from one of the oldest festivals in Hollywood. It also won two awards at the **Bermuda International Film Festival** in March 2018, followed by a busy summer, heading off to Armenia with a multitude of screenings including the **Golden Apricot Film Festival** and a very special screening and poetry reading session at the **Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute** which was an amazing honour and loved by the audiences and the press.

Taniel has been adding up the airmiles with summer screenings in **AFFSydney**; a very successful session at the **Screenplay Film Festival**, curated by Mark Kermode, and 3 showings at the **DC Shorts Festival** in Washington. In 2018, the film also travelled to the **Short to the Point festival** in Bucharest, and one of Europe’s oldest festivals in **Montecatini** in Tuscany, before we heading over stateside for **ARPA International Film Festival** in Los Angeles and **Pomegranate Festival** in Toronto and a very exciting screening in New York, at the famous **Lincoln Centre’s Film Society**, as a part of AGBU’s exciting “6 Short Films by Armenian Filmmakers” programme.

2019 started with another New York screening, this time as a part of the **Socially Relevant Film Festival**. Two significant screenings are taking place in April – first in Istanbul, Varoujan’s city at **Hrant Dink Foundation’s Memories of Varoujan: One Film, One book** event, then in one of Birmingham’s exciting art spaces, **Centrala**, on 24 April, the day of Varoujan’s arrest and the day of commemoration of Armenian Genocide. There will be new screenings and festivals announced Belgium, London and Cyprus soon.

# TANIEL



REBEL REPUBLIC LTD PRESENTS A FILM BY GARO BERBERIAN 'TANIEL' NARRATED SEAN BEAN YEGYA AKGUN STARRING TIGRAN GABOYAN  
SOUNDTRACK PHILIP GLASS VALENTINA LISITSA TIGRAN HAMASYAN MICHAEL NYMAN  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GURI GOLIADZE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MARIAM DVALISHVILI WRITTEN BY GARO BERBERIAN BEN HODGSON  
POETRY TANIEL VAROUJAN BEN HODGSON POETRY PRODUCER TATEVIK AYZAZYAN  
PRODUCED NARE TER-GABRIELYAN DIRECTED GARO BERBERIAN



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