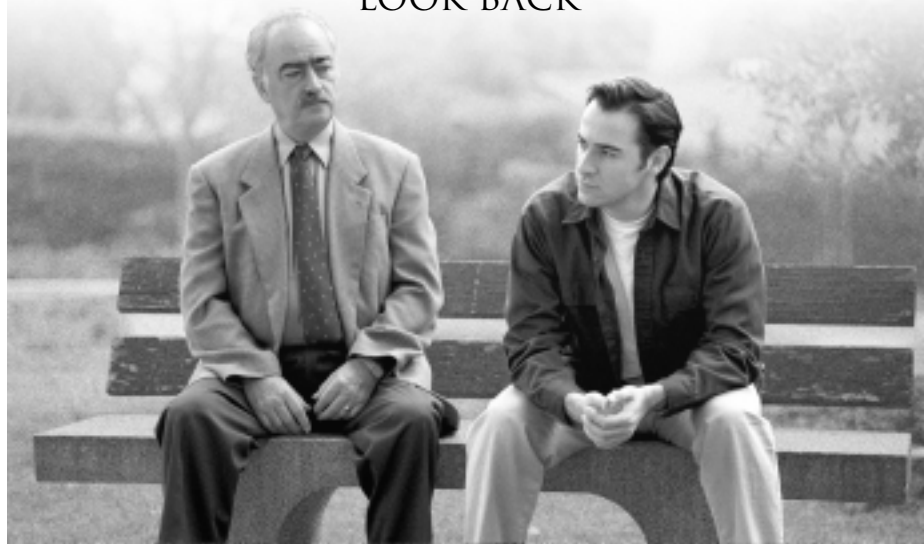


"I was impressed with AFTER FREEDOM. It seems unlikely to find a film in the "Mean Streets" genre that actually owes more to reality than to other movies. There was an existential urgency and truth to it that stuck with me." -- **Wim Wenders**

ONCE YOU  
CROSS THE  
BRIDGE...  
YOU DON'T  
LOOK BACK



## AFTER FREEDOM

AFTER FREEDOM FILM, L.P. PRESENTS "AFTER FREEDOM"  
MUSIC BY MIC TOMASI SOPHIE CHAHINIAN GREG SATAMIAN SHANT BEJANIAN IOANNIS BOGRIS ANAHID SHAHRUK  
MUSIC BY ALAN DERIAN COSTUME DESIGNER ELAINE MONTALVO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AMANDA ROUNSAVILLE EDITOR HOWARD HEARD & TOM OCHANIAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GARY MEEK  
PRODUCED BY BÉRJ BERAMIAN PRODUCED BY ERIC SHERMAN & VAHÉ BABAIAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SOPHIE CHAHINIAN BÉRJ BERAMIAN & KEN CRAIG WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY VAHÉ BABAIAN

# AFTER FREEDOM

# S T O R Y

AFTER FREEDOM, a unique portrait of outsiders' struggle to survive in America, is a raw and realistic presentation of a grown man caught between his desperate need for an identity versus his sense of debt to those who got him to this country.

Writer-Director, Vahé Babaian, in his first feature film, has created a character-driven tale about the experience of Michael Abcarian, a young Armenian man living in Glendale, California, as he confronts his growing sense of obligation to his father, Leon, who had sacrificed everything to get his family to America. Leon, in his late 50s, has just lost his wife and is forced to face his own survival issues -- if he could only drive a car on an LA freeway, he might even be able to get a job, which would reduce his own guilt about being a burden to his son.

In this realistic portrait of a man with a tremendous desire to be responsible for himself and his family, he nonetheless must confront the conflicting moral codes represented by Avo, the blow-hard who defends his honor with force, and Ana, Michael's fiancée, who continually goads him into facing the fact that maturity doesn't always include getting his own way. In Michael's struggle to "fit in," he faces not only what it means to be on the outside, but at what price to gain entrance into respectability.

Another of Michael's friends, Mato, is in an even more confused position; he's desperate to bring his own brother here, and, so resorts to risky and illegal means to achieve that goal. Michael, whom Mato acknowledges loves him like a brother, takes a strong stand against it, but Mato, plagued by his youth, doesn't follow the advice... and has his final confrontation at the Mexican border.

In this web of relationships marked by the need to grow up, how can Michael achieve his independence of spirit, without guilt at leaving behind those to whom he feels he may owe his own strength?

In AFTER FREEDOM, we are allowed to observe life play itself out. We see this extraordinarily real group of individuals come to grips with the realities of an existence where there is hope alongside the harshness of this universe.

## AFTER FREEDOM

# C R E D I T S

## THE FILMMAKERS

Written and Directed by Vahé Babaian

Producers Eric Sherman  
Vahé Babaian

Director of Photography Gary Meek

Co-Producer Bérj Beramian

Edited by Howard Heard  
Tom Ohanian

Original Score by Alan Derian

Executive Producers Sophie Chahinian  
Bérj Beramian  
Ken Craig

## THE CAST

Michael Mic Tomasi

Ana Sophie Chahinan

Leon Greg Satamian

Avo Shant Bejanian

Mato Ioannis Bogris

Nora Anahid Shahrik

A complete list of cast and crew members can be found on the website: [www.afterfreedom.com](http://www.afterfreedom.com)

# AFTER FREEDOM

# C O N T A C T

All inquiries regarding AFTER FREEDOM can be made with:

Eric Sherman  
AFTER FREEDOM FILM, L.P.  
316 N. Maryland Ave., Suite 208  
Glendale, CA 91206

Phone: (818) 550-9224  
Fax: (818) 550-9227  
E-mail: [eric@afterfreedom.com](mailto:eric@afterfreedom.com)

Additional information and photos can also be accessed from our website:  
[www.afterfreedom.com](http://www.afterfreedom.com)



AFTER FREEDOM

# CAST



**Mic Tomasi** stars as Michael Abcarian, a conscientious individual struggling with his sense of obligation towards his father, Leon, and commitment to fiancée, Anna, while he struggles with Avo's and Mato's swindling methods of survival.

Mic has appeared in films such as GALAXY QUEST, SPECTER'S ROCK, and ESCAPE UNDER PRESSURE, including television shows and performances with the Metropole Theater Group. By the age of sixteen, Mic was multilingual as result of living on four continents. His inspiration for acting was sparked by the cinema in India while attending a boarding school. His experience with growing up in America has highly contributed to his portrayal of the Michael character in AFTER FREEDOM.



**Sophie Chahinian** stars as Anna, Michael's fiancée, who urges Michael to accept maturity's requirement for changing one's sense of obligations.

Sophie has been acting since 1994 and has appeared in a number of films that have played the film festival circuit. Among these films is THE NOVICE which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and aired on PBS. Another film, SWAY screened in Vienna and had numerous U.S. screenings. Having studied at Occidental College, the Beverly Hills Playhouse and A Noise Within, she is a native of Los Angeles County. She has not moved far from whence she came because she enjoys rollerblading and cycling on the bike path too much. AFTER FREEDOM is her feature film debut as well as her first foray into executive producing.



**Greg Satamian** stars as Leon, Michael's Father, trying to adjust to life as a widower seeking a job and learning to drive, so he does not have to be a burden to his son.

Greg is a graduate of the American University (AUB). He attended the London School of Film Technique and Bristol Old Vic Theater School. When he arrived in the United States he joined the well-known Colonnades Theater Lab in New York City as one of its resident directors. Following his directorial debut for the Off-Broadway Company, he was invited to Hope Summer Repertory Company and directed on three consecutive occasions. He has also starred in various television shows such as "Suddenly Susan", "The Naked Truth", and "Team Knight Rider". His film credits include ENEMIES OF LAUGHTER, BELOVED RED, and SUBTERFUGE.

## AFTER FREEDOM

# CAST



**Shant Bejanian** stars as Avo, a hustling swindler, loyal to his friends but a bad influence on Mato, likes to intimidate people and wave his gun around to convey his self-righteous lifestyle.

Shant started acting by taking summer classes at Harvard University and worked in local cable television and commercials before moving to Los Angeles to further his dramatic career. He is a lifetime member of the Actors' Studio and has worked in several prestigious theater presentations including the leads in DETECTIVE STORY at the Strasberg Institute and the West Coast premiere of William Saroyan's critically acclaimed MY HEART'S IN THE HIGHLANDS produced by Bérj Beramian. Shant Bejanian is no stranger to the filmmaking process. He is a veteran of more than twenty independent action features including the well-received suspenseful crime drama FLIPPING and the futuristic thriller CENTURION FORCE with John Savage. Shant also made his own feature, HINDSIGHT, which he wrote, directed, co-produced and starred in.



**Ioannis Bogris** stars as Mato, who survives by Avo's influence and is determined to bring his brother to America.

Ioannis has appeared in films such as 187, starring Samuel Jackson and John Heard, and END OF DAYS, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gabriel Byrne. Also, he's appeared in numerous independent films such as: EM & ME, 2 TWINS, WASTED, THE HAVEN, CLASSIC, and WHATEVER IT TAKES. In addition to his film work, he has also guest starred on ABC's "N.Y.P.D. Blue", Fox's "Beyond Belief", and Showtime's "Rude Awakenings".



**Anahid Shahrik** stars as Nora, Michael's sister, who has moved to an independent life away from Michael and her father Leon.

Her other credits include the independent film UP AND FLYING. Most recently Anahid appeared in the staged reading of Tom Griffin's THE BOYS NEXT DOOR in San Diego. She has also appeared in a number of plays in New York City including LOU GEHRIG DID NOT DIE OF CANCER and SECOND THRESHOLD. Born and raised in Boston, Anahid trained in New York at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater and, subsequent to that, with Richard Pinter. She also studied at the School for Film and Television. Anahid is also professionally trained in jazz and Armenian folk dance and is a classical pianist.

## AFTER FREEDOM

# INTERVIEW

## Interview with Vahé Babaian

I came to the United States in 1976 via Iran and Lebanon, because my parents wanted me and my sister to have more opportunity and freedom. As an Armenian, we've been wanderers for a long time.

Growing up in Iran, I knew I wasn't going to stay there. I assumed I'd end up in America, because I'd grown up with so much American culture--music and so on.

My father worked for BOAC, the British airway, and he was always telling us about American things. But growing up as a Christian in a Moslem country was quite uncomfortable, so we knew we'd eventually have to leave.

In 1974, we had to go to Lebanon to clear my father's paperwork to come to America. We thought we'd be there for two or three months, but a civil war was just breaking out. It became a two to three year nightmare. When I was 14 or 15, I saw a group of soldiers put a gun to my dad's head, because they didn't know if he was Christian or Moslem. Even though we were Christians, we had to prove it. When they saw my dad's passport, they asked how could we be Christian? He had to explain we were Armenian. That 15 seconds that they had him in another room will never leave me.

For four months, to survive, we literally ate nothing but beans and rice. So when I got to America and saw the food people threw out in the school cafeteria, I realized I had to say something, I had to communicate.

My dad thought we'd get right out of Lebanon to America, but when he saw how long it took, I'm sure he asked himself if he'd done the right thing by taking us there. He used to walk around all night, watching us with a flashlight to make sure everything was okay. He slept a few hours in the morning. I wonder if he thought he'd made a mistake.

So, with all the sacrifices my father made, I figured I had to be somebody when I got here. Did I come to the U.S. just to eat better, just to not take a bullet? If I didn't say something when I was here, then I would fail my father and his sacrifice.

We spent all his retirement money--the money we thought we'd use in America--in Lebanon, so when we got to the U.S., we had nothing--maybe \$500 altogether. We had an address in Glendale, and a nice family took us in. Four of us, four of them. Eight of us living in a two-bedroom apartment. Because he knew English, he thought he could get a job here. That's when the insults started. Because of his age, he could only get odd jobs--laying carpet and things like that. He never complained in my presence, but I knew he was hurting. He was not a man who would express himself freely. My cousin later told me, after my dad died, that he had revealed how much it hurt him that he couldn't help me with my college tuition.

I had always wanted to make films, but I didn't really know what that meant. Once I got to the U.S., I figured I'd just do it--even though I didn't know what to do. I had to express myself. I wanted to learn how to put my experiences into film and express them.

I researched film schools, and Art Center College of Design in Pasadena sounded good. My dad only had small odd jobs, and my mom got up at 4AM to go downtown to sew. I watched my mom and dad in their 50s doing jobs that 20s-people were doing. So, of course, I couldn't ask them for money. I worked my way through school--had a full-time job and full-time school program at the same time.

My dad died right after I graduated. He never saw my work, even though he worked on my films on the weekends.

I took the money I had saved for my films and spent it on his funeral. I was lost for a little while, but I got it together pretty quickly and found a way to finish my work. But I did feel my dad went just a little too early.

Now, I've made AFTER FREEDOM. I don't want to make the regular clichéd "immigrant" film. What's important to me is I'm trying to portray what happens when a person thinks he's missed the boat. What happens after you get what you think you want? With AFTER FREEDOM, I have the chance to show, in an honest way, what I've seen in America--portraying people that are not often depicted on screen, a neighborhood that hasn't been seen, a way of life that hasn't been shown.

## AFTER FREEDOM

# F I L M M A K E R S

**DIRECTOR-WRITER-PRODUCER - Vahé Babaian** is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker and has been involved in film production for the last fifteen years.

Vahé's filmmaking style has been influenced in part due to what he has witnessed in his life. He had a normal childhood up until the time his family journeyed to America. Born in Abadan, Iran, to an Armenian family, he immigrated to America in 1976 after spending three years in war-torn Beirut, Lebanon. Much of his perspective on life is drawn from his experiences in the many different countries where he lived. In 1976, at the age of 16, he and his family finally arrived in America. However, the three years Vahé spent in Beirut changed his attitude and affected the type of story he wanted to tell and the kind of films he wanted to make.

While in America, he was faced with many personal hardships due to his family's financial situation. He got a full-time job and put himself through school. In his first independently made narrative film, *GENERATION APART*, which aired on KCET, the Los Angeles PBS affiliate, he was able to explore through the film medium some of his viewpoints. As the writer, director and producer of the film, Vahé explored how the generation gap between children and their parents widens when a family begins to acclimate to a new culture. *GENERATION APART* was named as a semifinalist in the Dore Schary Awards.

Vahé continued to demonstrate his abilities to foster more challenging projects when he undertook to write a feature-length screenplay entitled *AFTER FREEDOM*. Once the script was complete, he then embarked on the challenge of obtaining financing for the film. Vahé spent from 1995 to 1999 raising funds to start production of *AFTER FREEDOM*. Finally he was able to start production, and the principal photography of *AFTER FREEDOM* was completed in the year, 2000. Now, with the finished film in hand, he is exploring the marketplace.

He is currently developing several new screenplays.

Vahé graduated from the Film Department at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors. Vahé's philosophy of filmmaking is to interact with the audience through a universal theme that addresses issues important to him.

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - Gary Meek**, a graduate of Michigan State University, left a career in advertising to pursue filmmaking in California. After graduating from the Art Center College of Design with Honors in filmmaking, Gary worked on commercial spots and documentaries as a Director and Cameraman. Gary's friendship with Vahé Babaian developed during the years after Art Center where they had been classmates. *AFTER FREEDOM* brought the two together as Cinematographer and Director. Their collaboration on filming *AFTER FREEDOM* has given the film a unique style of its own and made it the high quality picture it is. Gary's work on *AFTER FREEDOM* clearly depicts his talent and vision as Director of Photography.

**EDITOR - Howard Heard** grew up in Southern California and had an avid interest in filmmaking from an early age. After studying film at UCLA, he found his way into the motion picture business as a film editor, where he has worked for 25 years. His editing credits include 42 features, more than 50 hours of prime time episodic television, four documentaries, and other short films and commercials. He maintains an interest in the sciences and music as well as film, and he is on the faculty of the film department at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, where he trains the film directors of tomorrow.

**EDITOR - Thomas A. Ohanian** has been a motion picture editor for 23 years. He is also an Academy Award-winner and a two-time Emmy award recipient. He is the author of two industry textbooks -- *DIGITAL FILMMAKING: THE CHANGING ART AND CRAFT OF MAKING MOTION PICTURES*, and *DIGITAL NONLINEAR EDITING: EDITING FILM AND VIDEO ON THE DESKTOP*. He is also the author of a new novel, *LINES IN THE SAND* ([www.linesinthesand.com](http://www.linesinthesand.com)), a love story set against the backdrop of World War I and the Armenian Genocide. He is a member of the Motion Picture Editors Guild and serves on the Scientific-Technical Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

## AFTER FREEDOM

# F I L M M A K E R S

**PRODUCER - Eric Sherman** was born in Los Angeles and grew up on the Hollywood backlots watching his father, Vincent Sherman, direct films starring many of the industry's greatest figures, including Humphrey Bogart, Errol Flynn, Clark Gable, Richard Burton, Paul Newman, Joan Crawford, Bette Davis, Rita Hayworth and Ava Gardner.

Eric attended Yale University where he co-founded the Yale Film Society and graduated as Yale's first Scholar of the House in Film. His first picture, CHARLES LLOYD -- JOURNEY WITHIN, was screened at the New York Film Festival and was reviewed by Variety as "...perhaps the finest film made about a jazz musician."

Eric has been a directing and production consultant to Universal Studios, Paramount Pictures and The Mount Company and has worked with several of Hollywood's leading writers, producers and directors, successfully ensuring on-time and on-budget feature film delivery. In addition to his work with the studios, Eric has owned and operated Film Transform, Inc., a full service film and video production company, since 1976. Film Transform also provides video production and duplication to dozens of corporations around America.

Eric has written four widely used texts on filmmaking: THE DIRECTOR'S EVENT, DIRECTING THE FILM, FRAME BY FRAME and SELLING YOUR FILM. He has also taught at Art Center College of Design, California Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts), Pepperdine, UCLA, the American Film Institute and Cal Tech, and he has given guest lectures at numerous universities around the country.

In addition to his production work and teaching, Eric joined the Gallup Organization in 1993 as their chief consultant for the motion picture industry.

Eric's work has won more than three dozen awards including the Peabody Award for Broadcasting, and he is listed in numerous biographical summaries, including Marquis' WHO'S WHO IN THE WEST. He is on the Board of Trustees of the American Cinematheque and the Board of Directors of FilmForum.

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / CO-PRODUCER - Bérj Beramian** grew up in Pasadena, California. As a young man he was always intrigued by the art of filmmaking. During his academic career, he studied screenwriting and cinematography and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature.

His professional career started with SEGA of America, involved with SEGA's cutting-edge TRU-VIDEO products, which were interactive movie games that combined filmmaking with video game technology. He carried over his experience as Associate Producer and Consulting Game Designer on FOX HUNT, released for the PC by CAPCOM USA. Bérj also Produced the West Coast premiere of William Saroyan's play, MY HEART'S IN THE HIGHLANDS, at the Limelight Theater in 1996. He has also directed several commercials and short films such as LABOR LIES LOST as part of his independent filmmaking study.

Bérj was in the audience of Vahé Babaian's screening of GENERATION APART. In 1995 their paths crossed again with AFTER FREEDOM. Upon first reading the script, Bérj immediately recognized the potential of the screenplay and its universal story, including its social and commercial value and international appeal. He really wanted to see the story depicted on the silver screen, so he committed himself to helping Vahé Babaian make the movie.

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - Sophie Chahinian** has been acting since 1994 and has appeared in a number of films that have played the film festival circuit. Among these films is THE NOVICE which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and aired on PBS. Another film, SWAY screened in Vienna and had numerous U.S. screenings. Having studied at Occidental College, the Beverly Hills Playhouse and A Noise Within, she is a native of Los Angeles County. She has not moved far from whence she came because she enjoys rollerblading and cycling on the bike path too much. AFTER FREEDOM is her feature film debut as well as her first foray into executive producing.

## AFTER FREEDOM