

## Tbilisi's Petros Adamian State Armenian Dramatic Theater Touring the United States And Canada

Tbilisi's Petros Adamyan State Armenian Dramatic Theater's troupe of 21 will be touring the United States and Canada in September-October, 2008.

The theater is expected to show at least 6 performances from its repertoire of sixty. Aside from its theatrical value, the tour of Tbilisi's Petros Adamyan

nian Dramatic Theater will be of great importance for the American-Armenians from the viewpoint of the acquaintances, spiritual communication, exchange of experiences expected.

It is planned that the theater will go on tour in the cities with large Armenian communities in America and Canada.



**Petros Adamyan State Armenian Dramatic Theater Group**

State Armenian Drama Theater bears national, moral, historical, cognitive, and esthetic significance.

The arriving troupe is led by Mr. Armenak Bayandouryan, Artistic Director of Tbilisi's Petros Adamyan State Armenian Dramatic Theater, head of the Armenian Diaspora in Georgia, newly elected member of the Georgian Parliament.

Like Polis, old Tiflis, used to be a prosperous cultural and industrial capital for many generations of Armenians.

In Tbilisi, Armenians have given away almost all of their leading positions except for the Armenian theater, which absorbs all the love, care, attention and support of the Armenian population of Tbilisi.

Led by our decision to support the Armenian residents of Tbilisi, we gladly accepted the suggestion of Tbilisi's Petros Adamyan State Armenian Dramatic Theater go on tour of United States and Canada. We have already done a lot to welcome the troop of the 152 years old Tbilisi's Petros Adamyan State Dramatic Theater.

We believe that the tour will be of not only moral importance for the Armenian residents of Tbilisi and Georgia, but will also be a good opportunity for the meetings between the old and new Armenian societies of Sayat Nova and his predecessors, Ashtaraketsi and the Nersesyans, Soundoukyan, Proshyan, Toumanyanyan and the members of his Vernatoun, for the Tbilisi residents of the past and the present times, as well as for the comparatively new Armenian diaspora. The tour and the meeting with Tbilisi's Petros Adamyan State Arme-

There will be performances in California (Glendale, Montebello, Orange County, Encino, Fresno, San Francisco. In the East Coast United States the theater will have performances in New York, New Jersey & Boston. In Canada it will perform in N. Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto.

The Tbilisi based Petros Adamyan State Armenian Dramatic Theater has celebrated its 152<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, it's the oldest professional theater in Caucasus, the only state non-Armenia based Armenian theater, an important centre for the development and spreading of the Armenian culture.

Gabriel Soundoukyan, Petros Adamyan, Siranoush and many other outstanding cultural figures served their nation in this theater.

The organizing committee believes that Tbilisi's Petros Adamyan State Armenian Dramatic Theater's Tour is expected to be an event that will uphold the Armenian identity and encourage the people." Pepo", "My Daughter's Finances", "Love Under The Elms", "Be Healthy", "Khataballa", "The Guards Of Ruins" will be performed.

The Armenian community should not lose such a great opportunity.

The Organizing Committee of the Tbilisi Petros Adamyan State Armenian Dramatic Theater's 2008 Tour.

For additional details, you may contact the members of organizing committee:

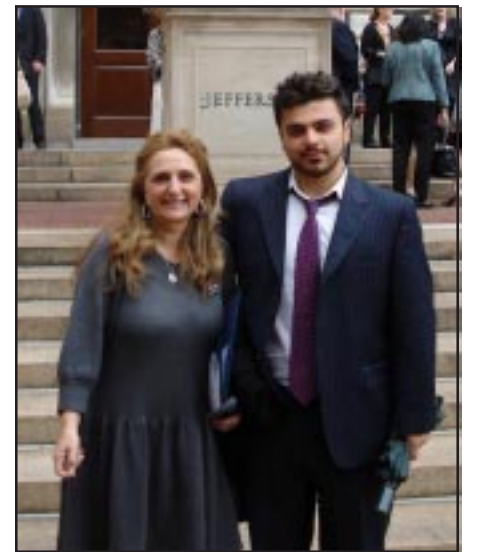
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## Garin Hovannisian Graduates With Columbia University Honors And Fulbright

Garin K. Hovannisian of Los Angeles and Yerevan graduated in May with a Master of Sciences degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism with highest honors and awards. The distinguished program was established by Joseph Pulitzer in 1912. Garin's mentors were Victor Navasky, the legendary editor of The Nation; author Michael Shapiro; critic Judith Crist; and New York Times columnist and author Samuel G. Freedman.

Hovannisian's thesis, directed by Michael Janeway, former editor of The Atlantic and The Boston Globe, is titled The Trouble with Magic and entails extensive research, interviews, and oral histories that explore the tensions within modern magic and the deeper cultural problems they reflect. In Navasky's seminar, Garin served as the copy-editor for The New York Review of Magazines, a publication about magazines. In Freedman's book-writing seminar, Hovannisian received top honors for which at graduation he was awarded the Lynton Book-Writing Fellowship. His fellowship project is the story of three generations of Armenians, which captures a century of Armenian history, longings, and aspirations.

Hovannisian, who graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA in 2007, was praised for his talent and creativity by his Columbia professors and advisors at his graduation, for



**Garin and Mother Armine Hovannisian at Columbia Graduate School of Journalism**

which his mother traveled from Armenia to New York. During the ceremonies, it was learned that Hovannisian had also received a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship to work on a novel during a year of residence in Armenia in 2008-09. In acknowledging the special recognition, he said: "I am honored by both awards, and I accept them not as acclaim for past work but as faith in future accomplishments. I hope to fulfill that faith during my year in Armenia."

Garin K. Hovannisian is the son of Raffi and Armine Hovannisian of Yerevan and the grandson of Mrs. Takouhi Khatchikian and Drs. Richard and Vartiter Hovannisian of Los Angeles.

## Youth Debate

Continued from page 2

bly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Harutyunyan says:

"The president and the ruling party are making positive changes today not to cut a fine figure with Europe but because it proceeds from their essence. We want Armenia to be a democratic state and it is a long way. Freedom of speech is one such sphere, others are all spheres where the president initiates reforms. The problem is that in our newest post-independence history negative phenomena have got such deep roots that you cannot remove them in a couple of months."

Meanwhile, the opposition youths think that the current authorities simply have a problem to show to Europe that everything is good and the demands laid out in the mentioned resolution are not being fulfilled in Armenia. The action, if any, they say, is a mere imitation.

"Why were a number of opposition figures acquitted and released before the June 20 rally?" says Manuk Sukiasyan.

Narek Galstyan says that politics in Armenia is conditioned by personalities. According to him, there is a pyramid-like system in the country, by which the lower populace acts as told from the pinnacle.

## U.S. Presses Armenia To Return To Democratic Path

Continued from page 1

former President Levon Ter-Petrosian.

They have said such steps are essential for the release of \$236 million in additional economic assistance to Armenia promised by Washington. The five-year aid program was effectively frozen after the deadly suppression on March 1 of Ter-Petrosian's street protests against official vote results which the opposition considers fraudulent.

According to Kramer, the authorities in Yerevan have still not fully addressed the U.S. concerns even if they refrained from using force against thousands of Ter-Petrosian supporters who rallied in the Armenian capital last Friday. "There is a lot that remains to be done," he said. "I think that's to be expected of a government that is still rather new."

The U.S. official, who also met Ter-Petrosian, singled out the continuing imprisonment of dozens of opposition leaders and activists, saying that he had "extensive discussions" on the issue with Prime Minister Sarkisian as well as Justice Minister Gevorg Danielian and Prosecutor-General Aghvan Hovsepian.

"There were ten people killed on March 1-2," Kramer told journalists. "We would like to see those responsible for those deaths brought to justice."

Kramer said the authorities should also enable the independent TV station A1+, which was controversially forced off the air in 2002, to resume broadcasts and authorize Ter-Petrosian's next rally scheduled for July 4. He commended them for not breaking up last Friday's rally that was not sanctioned by the Yerevan municipality.

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