



...Culture, arts, & heritage of Azerbaijan & the Caucasus

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C. February 25, 2011—Dozens of Washingtonians gathered at the historic Avalon Theatre on Thursday, February 24, 2011, for the Washington, D.C., premiere of the moving documentary *The Refugee: The Life Story of Anar Usubov*.

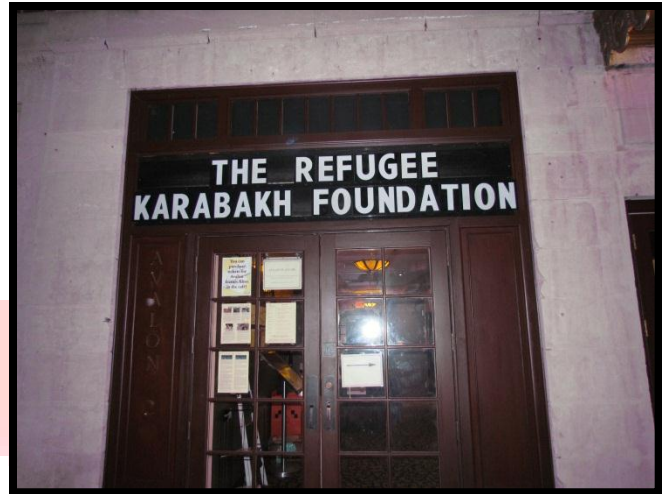
The Refugee is the story of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through the eyes of 8-year-old Anar Usubov, a boy from the town of Khojaly. The film opens during the collapse of the Soviet Union and chronicles the tragedies of the war and its aftermath. The film features moving interviews and straightforward historical facts to educate world audiences about the continuing conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

After a short and intimate VIP reception with Dr. Cem Oguz, the Turkish journalist and producer behind the project, the audience was invited upstairs to one of the theaters where the one-hour film was shown. Karabakh Foundation Executive Director Diana Altman gave a brief speech, introducing Dr. Oguz beforehand.

Afterward, Dr. Oguz answered questions from the audience about the film and surrounding issues. The Karabakh Foundation is pleased to continue working with Dr. Oguz to submit this important documentary to film festivals. *The Refugee* is available in its entirety on www.karabakhfoundation.org.

Dr. Oguz is the head of the Center for Caucasian Studies and a specialist in ex-Soviet geography. An international relations student at Bilkent University, he went on to represent the Turkish Historical Society in Russia between 1995-96. Dr. Oguz currently writes a column for *the Hurriyet Daily News* and is the author and/or editor of various books.

The Refugee film title and the Karabakh Foundation are featured on the marquee outside of Avalon Theatre



Patrons eat Turkish food from at a VIP reception preceding the screening of The Refugee

Karabakh Foundation Executive Director Diana Altman and Dr. Cem Oguz, Turkish producer of The Refugee, address the audience after the screening



About the Karabakh Foundation

The Karabakh Foundation seeks to increase awareness and understanding in the United States of the cultural heritage and traditions of the country of Azerbaijan, the Caucasus area, and the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. While coalescing significant artistic and scholarly talent, the Foundation is nurturing a new generation of artists and scholars toward important accomplishments.

The Foundation serves as a dynamic facilitator and clearinghouse raising the public profile of Azerbaijan, its Karabakh region, and the Caucasus region in general. Main activities include preserving and disseminating cultural content via archival collecting, public programs, publications, exhibitions, speaking forums, international collaborations, scholarly exchange, artistic sponsorship, and related venues.

Foundation support comes primarily from Khazar University, the first private university in Azerbaijan and one of the country's leading institutions of higher learning. Support also comes from the U.S.-based Allaverdy Foundation. Additional information about the Karabakh Foundation may be found at www.karabakhfoundation.org.

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