

# Elegy in Light

*Armenia. 10:22*

"Elegy in Light", shot on super 8mm film at the funeral of Catholicos Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians, depicts an ancient and rarely seen rite of the Armenian Church with the sound of monastic ritual chant: an experience described by one viewer as "a psychedelic trip into medieval times."

The film is an impressionistic meditation on death, life and the fragmentary way we remember the past. The quality of 8mm film is a metaphor for memory and for the soul itself; a cinematic memorial made from the substances of time and light.

**Director:**     **Zareh Tjeknavorian**

Zareh Tjeknavorian was born in Fargo, North Dakota into a family of musicians and grew up in Tehran, London, Frankfurt, Paris and New York, where he attended the Professional Children's School and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, majoring in film and television. Over the years he's pursued his interests in ancient and esoteric cultures, lost histories, and the lives of the forgotten and dispossessed through short and long-form films. His acclaimed documentary *Enemy of the People*, an oral history of Stalinism based on over 200 interviews, was broadcast on PBS and noted by National Geographic Magazine as one of three must-see films about Armenia. In 2018, his film *Elegy in Light* won the Rosenkreuz Award for Best Foreign Documentary at the First Hermetic International Film Festival in Venice.

His most recent work is a folk history of the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath in Soviet Armenia, told through the memories of orphans, refugees and their descendants.