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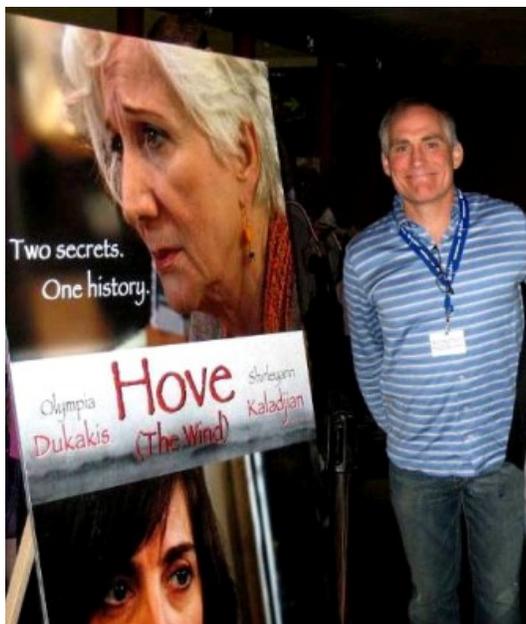


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50

## Interview with director of "Hove", Alex Webb at the Boston Film Festival

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT | SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 | BY: WINCHIN CHALA |



Alex Webb

The [Boston Film Festival](http://www.bostonfilmfestival.org/) (<http://www.bostonfilmfestival.org/>) has a history of recognizing short films, and this year there is one which is most intriguing. It is "Hove," a 10 minute piece which tells how two Armenian women are affected by the legacy of the 1915 [Armenian Genocide](http://Armenian Genocide) (<http://Armenian Genocide>) committed by Ottoman Turkish Empire. It stars Massachusetts film great, [Olympia Dukakis](http://www.examiner.com/x-20053-Boston-Cultural-Events-Examiner-y2009m9d11-Olympia-Dukakis-an-extraordinary-actress) (<http://www.examiner.com/x-20053-Boston-Cultural-Events-Examiner-y2009m9d11-Olympia-Dukakis-an-extraordinary-actress>).

Winchin: How is this word "

Hove" pronounced?

Alex Webb: It's a little tricky, but basically Hovah, the wind. It's Armenian.

Winchin: Are you Armenian?

Alex Webb: I am not ABC, that is a term you may hear again.

Winchin: What does that mean?

Alex Webb: Armenian by choice.

Winchin: Why?

Alex Webb: I have now been in the Armenian community for some years. My wife Shirleyann is Armenian. From the start I was made to feel very welcome in the community. I admire the music, culture, traditions. We have a four-year-old son and so issues like the unresolved legacy of the Genocide have become my issues, my work.

Winchin: Shirleyann is Shirleyann Kaladjian, the actress. She is Armenian, right? So is this a true story?

Alex Webb: No it is a fictional story inspired by history. The Armenian Genocide is real. Millions of Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians, and Jews, who suffered, and were tortured in a holocaust, exiled; even though, the Turkish government denies this happened. That is what makes this story unique, the extent to which the Turkish government goes to campaign...to deny it. You are not allowed to grieve because, according to them, this didn't happen.

Winchin: How can they insist that it didn't happen? Aren't there pictures?

Alex Webb: Interesting that you mention that. Actually The story is built around couple of historical photographs. And, my hope is that having seen those photographs... There's something about seeing a photograph that can make someone who knows nothing about a particular piece of history feel a little more like they're almost a witness. My hope is that when the Turkish propaganda comes up, there will be more people out there, who if they've seen photographs—even if they don't retain any facts and figures—will say 'No, no. I've seen that. I know that happened'

Winchin: Wow that is really interesting. It does seem to be particularly focused on Armenia, is there a particular reason why you sought out Olympia Dukakis who is Greek American?

Alex Webb: Yes. First of all Olympia is an amazing actress. She was interested in the project. And she is very connected to the material. Her father was an Anatolian Greek who barely escaped the Turkish genocide with his family.

Winchin: She is widely admired here in Boston which I think is here home, I both the Greek American community and the community in general. Lucky you. I thought I recognized you from a couple of roles. Now I see you are directing. Did you attend film school?

Alex Webb: I learned on the set. I was always asking people what they were doing. But when I was young I got a projector for a birthday gift, an old 8mm projector. That was the beginning. I would show old films of Charlie Chaplin and when the credits were rolling, I would imagine my name up there.

Winchin: This is a relatively short film, 10 minutes. Is it a shorter version of something larger that's yet to come?

Alex Webb: I hope. I am working on another feature-length project now.

Winchin: I read that the film screened at the Palm Springs [Film Festival \(http://www.examiner.com/topic/film-festival\)](http://www.examiner.com/topic/film-festival). What was the response there?

Alex Webb: There was a lot of interest. It was very favorable.

Winchin: I hope it will be here too.

[www.hovethewind.com \(http://www.hovethewind.com\)](http://www.hovethewind.com)

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