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New York will welcome the 7th Turkish Film Festival this fall

Moon and Stars Project is pleased to announce the seventh annual New York Turkish Film Festival. The festival is scheduled for September 24 – October 2 at Anthology Film Archives.

New York, NY [September 1, 2005] — New York-based Turkish nonprofit organization **Moon and Stars Project** will present the seventh annual **New York Turkish Film Festival** from September 24 to October 2, 2005 at **Anthology Film Archives**, 32 Second Avenue (at Second Street). What started six years ago as a modest screening of six films has come a long way with audience demand and much hard work, and this year the festival will boast a total of twenty-six films including features, shorts, and documentaries.

Opening the New York Turkish Film Festival is Omer Faruk Sorak's long-awaited comedy **G.O.R.A.** This hilarious science-fiction spoof, starring and written by comedian Cem Yilmaz, broke box-office records in Turkey.

The Directors Abroad Section will feature German-Turkish director Fatih Akin's **Duvara Karsi (Head-On)**, which won the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival, and Ayse Polat's **En Garde**, which won the Silver Leopard for Second Best Film, and Best Actress awards at the Locarno International Film Festival.

In the Tribute Section, Yavuz Ozkan will be honored. Known for his lucid narrative style, Ozkan has been sharing his thirty years of industry experience with promising young filmmakers through free classes at the Z-1 Film Studio, which he founded in 1995. Ozkan's film **Yengec Sepeti (Lobster Pot)**, features the renowned Sadri Alisik, who passed away shortly after completing the film.

The Documentary Section will feature Dervis Zaim and Panicos Chrysanthou's **Paralel Yolculuklar (Parallel Trips)**, which presents the views of two individuals from different sides of Cyprus, and Yesim Ustaoglu's **Sirtlarindaki Hayat (Life on Their Shoulders)**, which explores the lives of women living in Turkey's Black Sea region.

The Contemporary Turkish Cinema Section will be showcasing **Bulutlari Beklerken (Waiting for the Clouds)** from Yesim Ustaoglu, the director of the internationally acclaimed film **Gunese Yolculuk (Journey to the Sun)**; Oguzhan Tercan's action/comedy **Hirsiz Var! (Robbery alla Turca!)**; and **Gonul Yarasi (Lovelorn)** from esteemed director Yavuz Turgul and starring Sener Sen. **Egreti Gelin (Borrowed Bride)** from veteran director Atif Yilmaz, whose **Berdel** and **Selvi Boylum Al Yazmalim (The Girl with the Red Scarf)** were featured in the Tribute to Masters section in 2002, will give the audience a chance to see the legendary stars of Turkish cinema side by side with the younger generation of actors. This section will also include two must-see films: Ahmet Ulucay's autobiographical **Karpuz Kabugundan Gemiler Yapmak (Boats out of Watermelon Rinds)**, which was featured at this year's Tribeca Film Festival, and Ugur Yucel's award-winning **Yazi Tura (Toss Up)**, which will conclude the festival.

Two new categories of films have also been included this year. In Beyond Borders, non-Turkish films about Turkey and Turks living abroad will be screened. A German film and collaboration, ***Kebab Connection***, will be the first example of this genre. Secondly, as part of the festival's commitment to supporting up-and-coming filmmakers, short films will be presented in a collective Short Film Program.

As a result of the efforts to expand the audience base of Turkish cinema in the United States, this year **Moon and Stars Project** is also proud to announce that through a generous grant from the Turkish Cultural Foundation, the seventh annual New York Turkish Film Festival's program will be shared by centers in Tempe, Arizona; Madison, Wisconsin; and Seattle, Washington.

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For more information regarding the seventh annual **New York Turkish Film Festival** or **Moon and Stars Project**, please visit www.moonandstarsproject.org. For press inquiries, please call Selin Günal, Moon and Stars Project Press Communications Coordinator, at (646) 709 1579, or e-mail selin@moonandstarsproject.org.

For visuals: <http://www.moonandstarsproject.org/press>