LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHIFF)

P.O. Box 5202 - San Pedro, CA 90733 ~ Telephone: (310) 519-0756 To create a cinematic bridge between the people of the region and the people of the world

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stephanie Mardesich, Festival Director (310) 519-0756 or <u>stephaniemardesich@yahoo.com</u> Filmmaker Contact: Mail@CrowsOfTheDesert.com - Marta Houske/Matrix Communications (310) 782-8400

Media Alert <u>LA Harbor International Film Festival DocSunday</u> <u>Closing Program March 19 at 4 p.m. Warner Grand Theatre San Pedro</u> Crows of the Desert - A Hero's Journey Through The Armenian Genocide



Who: 14th annual LA Harbor International Film Festival (March 16-19)

What: Closing program DocSunday presented by Tesoro Foundation ~ Port of Los Angeles Premiere (POLA) Crows of the Desert - A Hero's Journey Through The Armenian Genocide (61 min, USA, 2016, Directed by Marta Houske)

Filmmaker and colleagues present for "Conversation and Q&A" after the screening (*Caution: Some of the archival visual imagery might be concern for youth and some adults)

When: Sunday, March 19 - 4 p.m.

Where: Warner Grand Theatre, 478 W. 6th St., historic downtown San Pedro - the POLA

Synopsis: Emmy Award winner film director/writer/producer Marta Houske spent nearly four years creating this exceptional documentary film uncovering extraordinary and rare archival footage and photographs from around the world, revealing the terror and bravery of this astonishing true story of the heroic efforts of Levon Yotnakhparian ("Levon") that took place a century ago during the Armenian Genocide.

As World War I raged in the Middle East, with Col. T.E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia") fighting side by side with the Arabs against the Ottoman Empire, Levon barely escaped with his own life. Caught up in the chaos he risked extreme peril to return to this dangerous realm and lead a small expeditionary group to help save his people from near extinction in the 20th century's first genocide that saw the demise of over two million Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians, which makes this story compelling for their ancestors, and people of conscience around the world. Various fascinating historical figures appear in the story including Lawrence, Prince Faisal, Hussein El-Attrache and Sarah Aaronsohn.

A Matrix Communications production credits include: executive producer, Paul G. Turpanjian (TF Educational Foundation); film editors, Chris Toussaint and Brian Denny; original score by John Massari; inspired by <u>Crows Of The Desert</u>, the memoirs of Levon Yotnakhparian, by Levon Parian (Levon's grandson and namesake).

- **Cost:** General Admission for film only: \$10.00; affiliates*, students, seniors, affiliates* \$8.00 *Los Angeles Maritime Museum (LAMM), Grand Vision Foundation (GVF), Hollywood Heritage (HH) Veterans and those currently serving in the military admitted FREE to all film programs subject to available seating
- **Tickets:** From Feb. 16th www.brownpapertickets.com ~ telephone (800) 838-3006; or WGT box office one hour prior to screening cash sales only**More**: Watch the film's trailer:

https://vimeo.com/181887769

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More: www.laharborfilmfest.com