

Accolades for
Crows of the Desert - A Hero's Journey Through The Armenian Genocide
Feature documentary directed by Marta Houske (61 min, USA, 2016)

"*Crows of the Desert - A Hero's Journey Through The Armenian Genocide* tells the story of Levon, an Armenian survivor from Urfa, who was instrumental in rescuing hundreds of orphans after the 1915 genocide in Turkey. While graphic in its use of many original photographs, this documentary is simultaneously inspiring, heart-wrenching, and beautifully crafted. Confronted today with millions of global refugees, the survival of the Armenian people, and people like Levon, offer hope in the midst of despairing realities."

Donald E. Miller, Leonard K. Firestone Professor of Religion, University of Southern California

"Sometimes in the midst of extraordinary times, ordinary people become heroes. *Crows of the Desert - A Hero's Journey Through The Armenian Genocide* tells the story of the Armenian genocide through the life of the remarkable Levon Yotnakhparian, tracking his evolution from a tailor to a soldier to a freedom fighter.

Combining rare footage, photos, and documents, as well as solid story-telling and interviews with survivors, "Crows" complicates our understanding of the genocide: it stresses both the resilience and strength of the Armenian people *and* the key role of Arab and other allies who provided assistance as Levon led expeditions to rescue those at peril.

With this tale of a "humble tailor from Urfa," the filmmakers do what art does best: take what seems to be a narrative so very specific to a time and place and make it universal.

In a world currently wracked by conflicts, displacement, and disillusion, "Crows of the Desert" reminds us of the importance of solidarity as well as the need for all of us to stand up against injustice and human suffering."

Manuel Pastor, Professor, Sociology / American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California

About Professor Pastor

Manuel Pastor is the founding director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Pastor currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at the University of Southern California (USC) and co-directs USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration.

He holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has received fellowships from the Danforth, Guggenheim, and Kellogg foundations and grants from the Irvine Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the W.T. Grant Foundation, The California Endowment, the California Air Resources Board, and many others.

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