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SFIFF '89

ASHIK KERIB

Another sumptuous, often enigmatic fable by the director of *Shadows of Our Forgotten Ancestors* [SFIFF 1965], *Sayat Nova*, and *The Legend of Suram Fortress*, Sergei Parajanov's latest work is either his lightest or most lightweight. Regardless, any new work by one of modern cinema's outstanding visual stylists is not to be missed. Shot under far from ideal conditions, and weighed down by a campy lead performance, the film relies primarily on static tableaux—often startlingly powerful—of gloriously costumed performers and colorful props. The plot, drawn from Lermontov, tells of a wandering minstrel's efforts to recapture his lost love. But, as in all of Parajanov's work, the plot of **Ashik Kerib** is hardly the point, even for those who will choose to trace in it the autobiographical imprint of a filmmaker thrice imprisoned and forbidden to work in the cinema for nearly 15 years. It's typical of Parajanov's career that, as his Armenian compatriots engage in open warfare with their Azerbaijani neighbors, he would choose to make his latest work in the language of "the enemy," simply because he loves the sound of it; then see it released abroad, at the insistence of the producers, with a Georgian voiceover nearly obscuring the original language. (PS)

3/12 only: Preceded by *Sergei Parajanov: A Portrait* (26 mins). See page 27.

3/12 KAB, 3/14 KAB

USSR • 1988

78 minutes

In Azerbaijani (Turkish)
with Georgian voiceover
and English subtitles

Directors:

Sergei Parajanov and
David Abachidze

Screenplay:

Georgi Badridze
Based on the story by
Mikhail Lermontov

Camera:

Albert Yavurian

Art Directors:

G. Meskhichvili,
Shota Gogolashvili,
Nikolai Zandoukeli

Cast:

Yuri Goyan, Veronika
Metonidze,
Levan Natroshvili,
Sofiko Chiaureli
Production Co.:

Gruziafilm

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International Film
Exchange



Presented by Dr. Armand Hammer
Occidental Petroleum Corporation