



Հ.Ա.Բ.Մ.-ի ԳԼԵՆԴԵԼԻ ԱՐԱՐԱՏ ՄԱՍՆԱՃԻՂԻ ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ԲԱԺԱՆՍՈՒՆՔ

Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter
Cultural Division

Get to Know...

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RUBEN MAMOULIAN October 8, 1897 – December 7, 1987

Rouben Mamoulian was born in Tiflis, Georgia, of Armenian descent. His father was a bank president. Mamoulian spent part of his childhood in Paris and was trained under Vakhtangov and Stanislavsky at the Moscow Art Theatre. In 1918 Mamoulian organized his own drama studio in Tiflis and two years later he toured in England. He studied drama at the University of London and directed his first play there in 1922.

In 1923 he moved to America and directed for three years operas and operettas at the George Eastman Theater in Rochester, N.Y.

Mamoulian was also the first to stage such notable Broadway works as Oklahoma (1943), Carousel (1945) and Lost in the Stars (1949). He directed his first feature film in 1929, Applause, which was one of the earliest talkies. It was a landmark film owing to Mamoulian's innovative use of camera movement and sound, and these qualities were carried through to his other films released in the 1930s. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1931) benefits from having been made before the Production Code came into full force, and is regularly considered the best version of Robert Louis Stevenson's tale. He directed the first three strip Technicolor film, Becky Sharp (1935), as well as the 1937 musical High, Wide and Handsome. His next two films earned him wide admiration, The Mark of Zorro (1940) and Blood and Sand (1941), both remakes of silent films.

Mamoulian's film directing career came to an end when he was fired from two consecutive films, Porgy and Bess (1959) and Cleopatra (1963). After directing the highly successful original stage productions of Oklahoma! and Carousel, he worked on only a few other theatrical productions, such as St. Louis Woman, which introduced Pearl Bailey to Broadway audiences.

He died in 1987 of natural causes at the age of 90 in Woodland Hills, California.

