



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Vancouver Turkish Film Festival Society and  
SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs present  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Vancouver Turkish Film Festival  
June 9 – 11, 2017  
SFU Woodward's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts  
- Contemporary Window Into Turkish Culture -**

May 17, 2017, Vancouver, BC: The Turkish Canadian Society is pleased to announce the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkish Film Festival, *Starry Crescent Nights*, co-presented with SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs from June 9 to 11 at the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts**. The festival will provide a contemporary window into Turkish cinema and its dynamic culture by exploring Turkey's past to understand its present.

The Vancouver Turkish Film Festival was founded in 2011 by a group of film enthusiasts and the local creative community. The VTFF is excited about the new partnership with SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs to present leading edge films and discourse surrounding Turkey - in light of current global developments.

This year's central theme, *The Ottoman Empire: History, Memory, and Literature: A Conversation* is led by expert panelists, Dr. Thomas Kuehn (Professor of History, SFU), Dr. Selim Kuru (Chair of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Washington), and Arlen Wiesenthal (Graduate Student, SFU). This riveting exchange of viewpoints will follow the screening of the documentary, *Tables of Istanbul*, on Saturday, June 10, 2:45pm.

Turkey's rich history with its emerging young and diverse population, and its pivotal geographic location, makes it a central player to the future of the Middle East. Turkey plays host to about 3 million Syrian refugees and images of their plight in attempting to cross the Aegean in treacherous dinghies captured world attention. Most recently Turkey has gone through a tumultuous period both politically and socially. We welcome you to immerse yourself into these complexities as told by these contemporary Turkish filmmakers and storytellers.

The VTFF endeavours to showcase the best of Turkish cinema, featuring both popular favorites and internationally acclaimed, award-winning films. The Turkish Canadian Society proudly presents the 2017 Vancouver Turkish Film Festival to share a greater understanding of Turkish culture here in Canada.

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