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| New Economic School, Moscow, Russia | | | |

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| Paradjanov, Sergei Iosifovich (1924-1990) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Born Sarkis Paradzhanian to Armenian parents in Tbilisi, Georgia, Sergei Paradjanov (also spelled Parajanov or Paradzhanov) was a Soviet filmmaker known for his complex imagery, stylistic innovations, and ethnographic themes. He achieved international fame with *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors* (1964), which defied socialist realism and sparked protests in Kiev. He refused to acquiesce to pressure to dub his film *Shadows* into Russian and instead stuck to the dialect of Ukrainian that his characters would have spoken. With scant resources he shot *Sayat Nova* (1969), a hagiographic celebration of the eponymous Armenian poet through a cinematic exploration of symbols reflecting the inner spiritual world expressed in his verses. *Sayat Nova* was censored and retitled *Color of Pomegranates* before its release. Paradjanov was blacklisted for the next fifteen years, ostensibly for his political views and controversial speeches. He was imprisoned from 1973-77. In 1984 he was finally permitted to release another film, *Legend of the Suram Fortress*, adapted from a Georgian story about a young man who is interred alive in the walls of a fortress in order to fulfill a prophecy. Paradjanov’s last complete film, *Ashik Kerib* (1989), depicts an Aizerbaijani bard on a quest to win the hand of his beloved. Paradjanov died of lung cancer while working on the film *Confession*, which he intended to dedicate to Armenia. |
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| Further reading:  (Alaiya)  (02Ar)  (Paradjanov)  (Holloway)  (Sergei Paradjanov: Official Website of the Yerevanian House-Museum)  (Steffen) |