

## Sidney Poitier To Introduce Angella Nazarian's *Life As A Visitor* At Public Library October 18



Angella Nazarian

By John L. Seitz

When Angella Nazarian debuts her new book *Life As A Visitor* on Oct. 18, it will not only become a special event for the Beverly Hills Public Library but one of the City's most distinguished motion picture star residents will make a rare public appearance to introduce her.

Oscar-winning actor Sidney Poitier, whose passion is reading, was asked by Lili Bosse, vice chair of the City's Planning Commission, if he would do the honors as part of a campaign to bring added community support to the library

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Sidney Poitier

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where he is a frequent visitor. He quickly agreed.

The story outlined in *Life As A Visitor* has all the makings of a major movie vehicle and it is all true.

When 11-year old Angella Maddahi, accompanied by her mother (Maryan) and sister (Lida Dardashti), left her home in Iran to visit her brothers living here, she had no way of realizing her entire world would be forever changed from that day onward.

"It was in 1978 and the turmoil in Iran was just beginning," she said. "However, we had no idea things would change so rapidly.

"It took six weeks before my mother was even able to return there and when she did, they had lost everything...and I didn't see them again for more than five years."

Nazarian states that the only way her parents escaped from their home country was by being smuggled out via Pakistan and then were robbed and left high

and dry there by their supposed "benefactors."

While her folks were experiencing all that trauma, she continued living with her married sister in Trousedale Estates. "We called her 'wonder woman' because she was not only raising her own family but her siblings, too."

Her parents eventually rejoined the rest of the family and Beverly Hills became their new, adopted home. Meanwhile, she graduated from Hawthorne School, Beverly High and then UCLA. She later earned a graduate degree (summa cum laude in industrial/organizational psychology from CalState Long Beach.

For the next several years, she was a faculty member of Mount Saint Mary's College, CalStateLB and L.A.Valley College. She has also served on a committee to promote diversity awareness in the Beverly Hills Unified School District, as a trustee of Brentwood School

Married to her husband, David, for 21 years and raising sons Phillip, 17, and Eli, 14,

Nazarian is presently conducting private workshops and seminars on topics related to personal development and growth for adults.

When asked the reason for *Life As A Visitor*, she wanted to emphasize never to get stuck in a rut and having visited and stayed at length in more than 50 countries, "home is not a physical place but a state of mind while belonging is not merely a feeling, but also an action.

"It's a look at the journey we all face finding our sense of 'home' in our community and within ourselves. Life's lessons from varying cultures, traditions, and experiences help shape us into who we become."

The presentation at Beverly Hills Public Library will be held outside on the Plaza from 3 to 5 p.m. and there will be book signings afterward. Reservations: 310-288-2220.

"Our library is such a major asset to the community. I've used it all the time since high school and can't think of a more appropriate venue, especially with Sidney Poitier involved," enthused Nazarian.