

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

December 2021

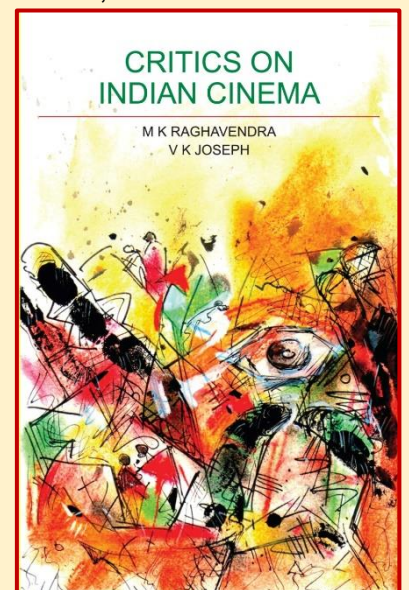
Monthly Bulletin of the India Chapter of International Federation of Film Critics

Website: [www.fipresci-india.online](http://www.fipresci-india.online)

## FIPRESCI-INDIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021 HELD ONLINE

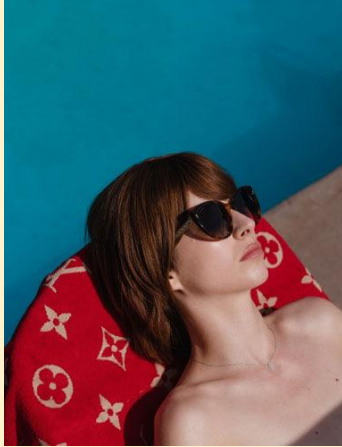


The General Assembly of FIPRESCI-India, technically known as the Annual General Meeting (AGM), for the year 2021 was held on 5 Dec online. 22 Members, out of 37, were present in the AGM, chaired by the President V K Joseph. Conventionally the AGM of FIPRESCI-India is held every year in the last week of Nov during the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Till 2003, it used to be held in Delhi as the venue of IFFI was there. Since 2004, it is being held in Goa, as the IFFI's venue was shifted from Delhi to Goa. The last physical AGM was held in Goa on 24 Nov 2019. On the same day the 1<sup>st</sup> FIPRESCI Seminar in IFFI was hosted officially by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Govt. of India (*pic above*) in Goa. The inaugural issue of FIPRESCI-India's annual film journal (in print version) CINE-INDIA was also published during that seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of IFFI. Due to pandemic, the 51<sup>st</sup> IFFI scheduled in Nov 2020 was deferred to Jan 2021 and the FIPRESCI-India's AGM was also deferred accordingly to 17 Jan 2021. This was the first time an AGM happened virtually, as most of the Members decided to abstain from their physical participation in IFFI. The 52<sup>nd</sup> IFFI held as per its schedule in Nov 2021 in a hybrid format, but as per decision of the majority of Members, the AGM was held on 5 Dec in virtual format. Many important organizational and policy decisions were taken in this AGM – the most important of which was to give prime importance to the academic activities like publishing the books and journals, organizing seminars and workshops, conducting film appreciation courses independently and in collaboration with different Universities for propagation of film culture. Decided that, FIPRESCI-India's 1<sup>st</sup> Book "Critics on Indian Cinema" will be published on 6 Jan 2022 and other two Books will also be published by the next year.



## **FESTIVAL OF NEW LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA**

FIPRESCI Award was given to "La Verónica" (Chile, 2020) by Leonardo Medel at the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Festival of New Latin American Cinema. After being postponed in Mar 2021 due to pandemic, it was finally held in the capital city Havana from 3 to 12 Dec 2021. FIPRESCI Jury composed of Cédric Lépine (France), Guillem Fernández Marí (Spain) and Ronald Antonio Ramirez (Cuba) followed the Competition Program of New Latinoamerican Cinema. 125 feature films were showcased this year largely from Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Chile. Ivan Giroud, president of the festival, said that "It has never been suspended. The pandemic could not stop this event from happening."



## **CAIRO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Award at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Cairo International Film Festival (26 Nov to 5 Dec 2021) was given to "Tomorrow" by Dhafer L'Abidine (Tunisia, 2021). Jury composed of Jihane Bougrine (Morocco), Diana Martirosyan (Armenia), and Amal El Gamal (Egypt) said in citation that the film "transcends its limitations through acute and emotional character observation, brilliant directorial control, and a strong and intense performance." Jury followed films in the International Competition.

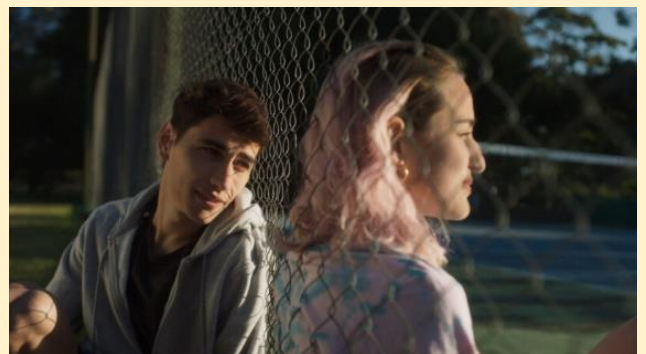


## **BEST EUROPEAN DEBUT OF THE YEAR**

Members of the European Film Academy have voted the UK/US coproduction "Promising Young Woman" (2020, 113M) written and directed by British filmmaker Emerald Fennell for the Best European debut of the year. The European Discovery Award was presented at the European Film Awards ceremony on 11 Dec 2021 in Berlin. Emerald Fennell already won the Academy Award for the Best Original Screenplay for this film.

## **MAR DEL PLATA FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Award at the 36<sup>th</sup> Mar del Plata Film Festival (18–28 Nov 2021) was given to Abidine "9" by Martín Barrenechea and Nicolás Branca (Uruguay, Argentina, 2021, 105M). Jury composed of Ernesto Diezmartinez (Mexico), Soledad Castro Lazaroff (Uruguay) and Pedro Almeida Tavares (Brazil) watched films in the Latin American Competition.



## **TORINO FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Award in the 39<sup>th</sup> Torino Film Festival (26 Nov to 4 Dec 2021) was given to "El Planeta" by Amalia Ulman (USA, Spain, 2021, 79M). Jury composed of René Marx (France), Anna Maria Osmólska-Metrak (Poland) and

Paola Casella (Italy) told in their citation that the film "lightly comical but equally emotional exposure of the doubtful future of Europe and the decay of modern society through the quirky relationship of mother-daughter". Jury followed films in the International Competition.

## **TALLINN BLACK NIGHTS FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Award in the 25<sup>th</sup> Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (12–28 Nov 2021) was given to "Other People" (Inni Iudzie, Poland, France, 2021, 106M) by Aleksandra Terpińska. Jury composed of Ola Salwa (Poland), Aleksander Huser, (Norway) and Maarja Hindoalla (Estonia) followed the Debut Feature Competition. Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (PÖFF) is one of the most important film festivals in Northern Europe which attracts an attendance of over 80,000 audience, including more than a thousand film professionals and journalists from around 70 countries.



## **TAIPEI GOLDEN HORSE FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Award at the 58<sup>th</sup> Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival (11–27 Nov 2021) was given to the film "American Girl" by Fiona Roan Feng-i (Taiwan, 2021). Jury composed of Giuseppe Sedia (Italy), Ahmed Shawky (Egypt) and Kuo Ming Jung (Taiwan) followed young films shot in Chinese language. Taiwanese film "The Falls" (2021, 129M) directed and written by Chung Mong-hong won the Best Feature Film Award in Festival. "The Falls" already won the Award for the Best Film in the 78<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival in Sept 2021 where Bong Joon-ho was the Jury President.



## **JAFFNA INTERNATIONAL CINEMA FESTIVAL**

7<sup>th</sup> Jaffna International Cinema Festival opened on 26 Dec 2021 in Sri Lanka. The festival will continue for three months in several phases in hybrid format. The first phase opened physically with Don Palathar's Indian Feature Film "1956 Central Travancore" (Malayalam, 2020, 95M). Two other Indian feature films Kripal Kalita's "Bridge" (Assamese, 2020, 87M) and Bratya Basu's "Dictionary" (Bengali, 2021, 109M) were shown in the first phase at the cultural center Kalam. The festival has a competition of the debut feature films which will come up in the next phase.



## **NATIONAL OPEN SEMINAR BY FIPRESCI-INDIA**

More than a thousand stakeholders from all over the country have registered

their serious concern on the Government of India's unilateral decision to merge the prestigious public institutions like the Films Division of India (1948), Children's Film Society of India (1954), National Film Archive of India (1964), and Directorate of Film Festivals (1973) with the National Film Development Corporation of India (1975). An Expert Committee under Sri Bimal Julka submitted its report without consulting with the primary stakeholders and that report has not been made publicly available despite an RTI application. Stakeholders demanded that government must declare this public organizations as National Heritage and take up the responsibility to empower them with greater autonomy for preservation, nourishment and propagation of the country's cinema heritage and culture painstakingly built by the public servants, filmmakers, archivists, students and film enthusiasts of the country. To discuss all these issues FIPRESCI-India will be organizing a National Open Seminar on 2 Jan 2022 online for which more than a hundred intending participants have already registered their names.

**FIPRESCI  
INDIA**

Organizes

A

**NATIONAL OPEN SEMINAR\***

2 January 2022 Sunday 8PM

On

Merger of FD, NFAL, CFSI &  
Other Organizations  
with NFDC Ltd.

\*On virtual platform  
Limited Seat (Free)

To Join: Mail to  
<indiafipresci@gmail.com>

## GAURAV MADAN WON THE BEST DIRECTOR AWARD IN PUNE FESTIVAL

Gaurav Madan won the Govt. of Maharashtra's 'Prabhat Best International Film Director Award' with a cash amount of Rupees Five Lakhs in the World Competition Section of the 19<sup>th</sup> Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) held from 2 to 9 Dec 2021 for his Hindi feature film "Barah by Barah" (India, 2021, 118M). The film already has participated and acclaimed in different important festivals like the International Film Festival of Kerala, Shanghai International Film Festival, Ottawa Indian Film Festival, Slemani International Film Festival Kurdistan Iraq and several others. The film will be shown in the Spiritual Competition Section of the Dhaka International Film Festival next month.

(Pic: Gaurav Madan receiving the Award from the Festival Director Jabbar Patel and Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister Amit Deshmukh).



## DHYAS AWARD TO SUDHIR NANDGAONKAR

'Chitra Chahul' a cultural organization in Mumbai felicitated Sudhir Nandgaonkar, former President of FIPRESCI-India on 5 Dec 2021 with "Dhyas" (Passion) Award for his outstanding works for more than



50 years to spread film culture in Maharashtra. This is the first award bestowed upon the film society activities in Maharashtra by any cultural organization outside the film society circle. President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations Vinay Sahasrabuddhe MP, handed over the award to Nandgaonkar. Kiran Shantaram President of Federation of Film Societies of India presided over the function where Dinkar Gangal was the main speaker.

## PICTURE OF THE MONTH

This exclusive photo of the legendary thespian Ratan Thiyam reading FIPRESCI-India's journal CINE-INDIA is taken by **Meghachandra Kongbam** in Imphal. Ratan Thiyam is one of the most important *theatre gurus* of India. A great admirer of cinema, especially of the films of Ingmar Bergman, Andrei Tarkovsky, Charlie Chaplin and Akira Kurosawa – Ratan Thiyam worked as the Vice Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi and Chairman of the National School of Drama. He is one of the leading figures of the *theatre of roots* movement in India. He received honorary D.Lit. from Assam University, Silchar and was also honored by the Govt. of India with 'Padmasree'. He was born on 20 Jan 1948.

