

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

January 2022

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

Website: www.fipresci-india.online

ARIBAM SYAM SHARMA RELEASED THE FIRST BOOK OF FIPRESCI-INDIA

Legendary filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma released the book CRITICS ON INDIAN CINEMA on 6 Jan 2022 through a virtual program attended by about 50 participants including the contributors, invitees and members of FIPRESCI. Mr. Syam Sharma in his speech appreciated the role of FIPRESCI to motivate the talented filmmakers worldwide. The 300 pages hard bound book, priced 600 INR, edited by MK Raghavendra and VK Joseph, is the first publication (book) of the India chapter of FIPRESCI. The book published in collaboration with the Kerala Region of the Federation of Film Societies of India and Best Books Kolkata is available on different online outlets like Flipkart and Amazon. It could be procured from FIPRESCI-India without delivery charge. The book is also available directly from the book stores in different cities including the showroom of Best Books in College Street, Kolkata. FIPRESCI-India will continue publishing several other books on film criticism and film studies. Second one in the series will also be published this year.



NATIONAL OPEN SEMINAR ON THE MERGER OF FD, NFAI, CFSI WITH NFDC

A National Open Seminar on the Merger of Films Division, National Film Archive of India, Children's Film Society of India and Directorate of Film Festivals with the National Film Development Corporation Limited was held virtually on 2 Jan 2022. VK Joseph, President of FIPRESCI-India chaired the seminar attended by more than 80 pre-registered participants free of charges. Rahul Rawail, Amrit Gangar, C S Venketeswaran, Anil Zankar, Priya Krishnaswamy, Saibal Mitra, Meenakshi Shedde, N Manu Chakravarthy, Sunny Joseph, Shilpi Gulati, Prateek Vats, Sudipto Acharyya, Siraj Syed and Rafeeq Ellias deliberated various aspects on the issue under reference. Resolution was taken that an independent committee would be formed soon to take up the issue to the students of different film schools, film industry people and the film lover public in general to apprise them about the contributions of these prestigious organization to the development of film culture and film history of India. Speakers also demanded that the 'Report of the Expert Committee' headed by Bimal Julka on whose recommendations this merger proposal was being hastily implemented by the Govt. unilaterally without addressing the arguments of the stakeholders should be published immediately. This is to be noted that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India finally published the Report of the Bimal Julka Committee on 19 Jan 2022.

fIPRESCI
INDIA

Organizes

A

NATIONAL OPEN SEMINAR*

2 January 2022 Sunday 8PM

On

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

***On virtual platform
Limited Seat (Free)**

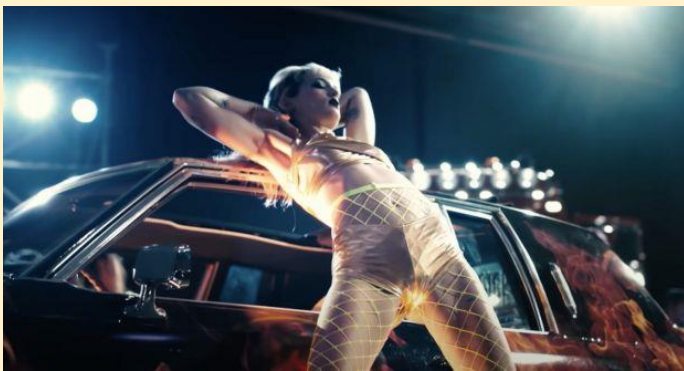
**To Join: Mail to
<indiafipresci@gmail.com>**

SHABNAM FERDOUSI'S DEBUT FILM WON FIPRESCI AWARD IN DHAKA IFF

Shabnam Ferdousi's (in pic-R) debut feature film "Song of the Soul" (Ajob Karkhana, Bangladesh, 2022, 109 min) won the FIPRESCI Award in the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival held from 15 to 23 Jan 2022 physically. The film produced by Samia Zaman (in pic-L) had its premiere in this festival. FIPRESCI Jury composed of Mohamed Sayed Abdelrehim (Egypt), Siraj Hashim Syed (India) and Bidhan Rebeiro (Bangladesh) evaluated the films in person in Bangladesh Panorama section.



PALM SPRINGS IFF



FIPRESCI Jury composed of Adriana Fernández (Mexico), Carlos Aguilar (USA) and Justine Smith (Canada) watched the films online in the 33rd Palm Springs International Film Festival USA (6 - 17 Jan 2022) and conferred four Awards: 1. Best International Feature Film – "Prayers for the Stolen" (Salvador, 2021, 110 min) by Tatiana Huezo Sánchez, 2. Best Screenplay in an International Film – "A Hero" (Iran, 2021, 127 min) by Asghar Farhadi, 3. Best Actor in an International Film – Amir Jadidi in the film "A Hero", and 4. Best Actress in an International Film – Agathe Rousselle in the film "Titane" (France, 2021, 108 min) by Julia Ducournau.

GANDHI MEDAL IN IFFI GOA

International Council for Film, Television and Audio-Visual Communication, an institution linked to UNESCO, has conferred the 'Gandhi Medal' to the film "Lingui, the Sacred Bonds" (Chad, 2021, 87M) by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun. The award was given on the occasion of the 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa in Nov 2021. The Jury composed of Isabelle Danel, Agnès Ravoyard, Xueyuan Hun, Ahmed Badjaoui, and Manouch Kadaamh in their citation said that the award was given to the film "For its powerful description of the struggle of a mother for her daughter in Chad today. The film is stressing the necessity of the bonds between women and their valiant fight against the injurious abuse of patriarchy. The film raises awareness of gender issues as well as the fundamental right to education of women and girls, values promoted by the UNESCO."



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF FILM CRITICS USA VOTED BEST FILMS OF 2021



The National Society of Film Critics USA has voted "Drive My Car" (Japan, 2021, 179 min) directed by Ryusuke Hamaguchi as the Best Film of 2021. Out of 59 members of the Society, 48 voted for it as the best film. "Petite Maman" (France, 2021, 72 min) directed by Céline Sciamma was at the second position with 25 votes and "The Power of the Dog" (Australia- NZ- USA- UK- Canada, 126 min) by Jane Campion at the third position with 23 votes.

TROMSO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award in the 32nd Tromso International Film Festival Norway (17-23 Jan 2022) was given to the film "Mr. Bachmann and His Class" (Germany, 2021, 217 min) by Maria Speth. The Jury composed of Florian Vollmers (Germany), Iva Privrelová (Czech Republic) and Terje Eidsvag (Norway) cited: "Our prize goes to a film that reminds us how powerful cinema can be by its smart, unobtrusive use of observation and music. An uplifting film about universal themes that inspires us to do our best and shows us why it is important, especially in this fast and isolating age, to devote your time to others to really appreciate them – and also how enriching it is to learn, create and hang out together. It is a long film, yet all of us didn't want it to end. We thank German filmmaker Maria Speth and her crew for introducing us to one exceptional teacher in this exceptional documentary. And we want to encourage all other viewers to spend their time in the company of Mr. Bachmann and his class".



BENGALURU FESTIVAL IN MARCH

Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai declared that the 13th Bengaluru International Film Festival will be held from 3 to 10 Mar 2022. The festival is organised by the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy with the support of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Karnataka. HN Narahari Rao, Artistic Director of the Festival confirmed FIPRESCI's participation in the festival, details of which would be notified soon.

THRISSUR FESTIVAL IN MARCH

17th International Film Festival of Thrissur will be held from 20 to 27 March 2022. Besides its regular sections like World Cinema, Asian Cinema, Indian Panorama, Malayalam Cinema, the festival will also host the 9th KW Joseph Film Award Competition for Indian debut feature films. The festival will confer the Life Time Achievement Award, pay Homage and organize seminars. Besides installation of FIPRESCI-India National Critics Jury, the India Chapter of FIPRESCI will have several other events in this Festival, details of which will be notified soon.



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NEPAL FESTIVAL IN MARCH

Nepal International Film Festival has announced its lineup for 5th edition coming up from 24 to 28 March 2022 in Kathmandu. The festival has its national and international competitions for fiction and non-fiction films. Nepal Film and Cultural Academy, the organizers of this biggest film festival in Nepal, has been affiliated as a member of the International Federation of Film Societies (IFFS) in Jan 2022. The festival has several Jury including the IFFS Jury .

ROYA SADAT' WON THE KIM DAE-JUNG NOBEL PEACE FILM AWARD 2021



Kim Dae-jung Nobel Peace Film Award 2021 was conferred to the Dae-Jung Afghan filmmaker Roya Sadat in praise of her effort to promote democracy, human rights, and peace through art of motion pictures, and also, in recognition of her valuable cinematic works and the semantic and artistic approach in her socially critical films, like "Playing the Taar", "A Letter to the President", which addressed important human rights issues. The award ceremony was held at the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kim Dae-jung Memorial Hall in Gwangju City, Korea on 16 Dec 2021. Kim Dae-jung Nobel Peace Film Award is part of the International Peace Film Festival program. Kim Dae-jung was a South

Korean statesman and activist who served as the eighth President of South Korea from 1998 to 2003. He was a 2000 Nobel Peace Prize recipient for his work for democracy and human rights in South Korea and in East Asia in general, and for peace and reconciliation with North Korea and Japan. He was also referred to as the 'Nelson Mandela of Asia'.

Roya Sadat's Message as the Recipient of the Kim Dae-jung Nobel Peace Film Award 2021

In our dark days, I'm getting this important film award... at a time which I'm not allowed to make a film in my country. Art and culture, especially cinema, is completely shut down. At a time, which people of my country are suffering poverty and hunger, women are excluded from society, artists are in exile and the voice of freedom is silent. And we are moving towards an unknown future, and perhaps the world is silently waiting for a greater catastrophe. From here, I would like to ask the international institutions and film festivals to be the voice of Afghan women who do not have the right to study and work nowadays in my country...to support and not leave them alone, in the hope for a free and prosperous Afghanistan. To support for a better tomorrow in which there is no threat of fundamentalism and extremism...As you know, human rights are being violated in the worst possible way in Afghanistan at the moment, people do not have their most basic rights and women suffer the most. I thank the institutions and individuals who stand by the people of Afghanistan, especially the women of Afghanistan, and stand up for their rights.
– Roya Sadat, Virginia, 2 January 2022.



SOUTH ASIAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED

Federation of Film Societies of India (Eastern Region) has announced the Call for Submission for the 5th South Asian Short Film Festival which will be held at Nandan, the Film Center in Kolkata from 20 to 26 June 2022. The festival is being organized uninterrupted since Mar 2018 and even during pandemic it was continued successfully. The festival showcases more than a hundred short fiction and documentary films every year and give several awards after the names of the master filmmakers like Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen, V Shantaram and others.



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