

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

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

Website: <https://fipresci-india.org/>

## CRITICS WEEK IN BENGALURU, KERALA AND THRISSUR INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

On FIPRESCI-India's initiative, CRITICS WEEK is being introduced in three major International Film Festivals of India coming up in March 2022. 13th Bengaluru International Film Festival to be held from 3 to 10 Mar 2022 in the capital city of Karnataka will showcase seven highly acclaimed feature films in the Critics Week section which is a non-competitive one. Films to be showcased in this section are: 1. *Identifying Features* (2020, Mexico, 95M)

By Fernanda Valadez, 2. *Brother's Keeper* (2021, Turkey, 85M) By Ferit Karahan, 3. *I Never Cry* (2020, Poland, 93M) By Piotr Domalewski, 4. *Father* (2020, Serbia, 120M) By Srdan Golubovic, 5. *Feathers* (2021, Egypt, 112M) By Omar El Zohairy, 6. *Yuni* (2021, Indonesia, 95M) Kamila Andini and 7. *Ring Wandering* (2021, Japan, 104M) Masakazu Koneko. 26th International Film Festival of Kerala to be held in Trivandrum, the capital city of Kerala from 18 to 25 Mar 2022 will showcase seven FIPRESCI Award winning films from Asia, Africa and Latin America in the Critics Week section which is also a non-competitive one. Titles of the films will be announced soon. 17th International Film Festival of Thrissur to be held from 25 Mar to 07 Apr 2022 in the beautiful city of Kerala will host the Critics Week as an International Competition of the 1st or 2nd feature film of a Director and the FIPRESCI-India Award will be given to the Best Film. Lineup will be published soon.



## LEGENDARY SINGER LATA MANGESHKAR PASSED AWAY



Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar (B. 28 Sept 1929) popularly known as the 'Nightingale of India' passed away on 6 Feb 2022 in Mumbai. She sang innumerable songs in more than thirty-six Indian languages and also in a few foreign languages. Her contribution to Indian music, especially to the Indian cinema is unforgettable. Highest National Honor of Indian cinema the 'Dadasaheb Phalke Award' was given to her by the Government of India in 1989 during the 37th National Film Award Ceremony. Same year she also received the honorary doctorate from the Sangeet Natak Akademi. She was awarded with India's highest civilian honor 'Bharat Ratna' in 2001 in recognition of her contributions to the nation. In 2007 she was awarded the Legion of Honor, the highest civilian award of France. Govt. of India gave a state funeral and observed two-days national mourning on her sad demise.

## UKRAINIAN LETTERS

The Russian president extends the war against Ukraine. In this time of human catastrophes our thoughts and feelings are with our Ukrainian friends and colleagues and their families. FIPRESCI has members in both countries, in the Ukraine and in Russia. We also see and appreciate that Russian colleagues dare to openly oppose against the politics of their president. As long as this war rages on, FIPRESCI will not participate in festivals and other events organized by the Russian government and its offices. In April, 2022, FIPRESCI had scheduled a colloquium in St. Petersburg, to make us familiar with new Russian films. This colloquium has been cancelled. Other events will be examined. We document the comments and reactions that reached us, and will reach us, from our members, film critics and their associations worldwide. – *The Board of FIPRESCI*



## **DON'T BE SILENT: UKRAINIAN FILM CRITICS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF FIPRESCI**

Dear colleagues,

February 27, 2022

Ukraine is suffering Russia's unprovoked invasion right now.

Ukrainian FIPRESCI branch consists of the members from different cities of Ukraine, including members from the territories unlawfully occupied by Russia for the last eight years and being constantly repressed for what they are.

Most of these cities were already bombed by Russian troops and most likely will be any time soon. Heavy street fighting is going on in some of them including Kyiv. We are calling out for our fellow members of FIPRESCI and literally everybody who is reading this to actively support Russia's isolation until its troops leave territory of Ukraine within its borders according to the international law. We ask you to abstain from participating in any film or other event organized, hosted or funded, directly or indirectly, by Russian Federation. We urge you not to take part online or otherwise in any film festivals and cultural forums in the Russian state as members of FIPRESCI. Otherwise, you will indirectly legitimize all the horrors Ukraine is withstanding now and struggling with hybrid Russian aggression it has been enduring for the last eight years. We are asking you not to be silent and vocally support Ukraine whenever it's possible.

This is joint message from film critics from Ukraine which include Ukrainian Film Critics Association members we were able to reach. It is only partial due to extreme conditions in which we all live and fight today.

*Alik Shpilyuk, Daria Badior, Oksana Voloshenyuk, Kateryna Slipchenko, Anton Filatov, Oleksii Pershko, Oleh Baturin, Nadia Zavarova, Denis Budanov, Alexandr Gusev, Dmytro Desiateryk, Serhii Ksaverov, Roman Huba, Nataliia Serebriakova, Natalia Moussienko, Oksana Moussienko, Anastasiya Lyakh, Kateryna Gorodnycha, Yuliia Kovalenko, Aliona Penzii, Yurii Samusenko, Dmytro Sydorenko, Yaroslav Pidgora-Gviadovskiy, Olha Sidorushkina, Ihor Hrabovych, Alex Malysenko, Yulia Kuznietsova, Valerii Myrny, Anton Frolov, Stanislav Bytiutskyi, Anna Datsiuk, Kyrylo Pyschychkov, Lukian Halkin, Elena Rubashevskia.*

## **NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE OF INDIA CELEBRATED THE 58TH FOUNDATION DAY**



National Film Archive of India, the most prestigious heritage film organization of the country, celebrated its 58th Foundation Day on 1st Feb 2022 (estd. 1964). With headquarters at Pune, it has three regional offices at Kolkata, Bengaluru and Thiruvananthapuram. It has got a fabulous collection several thousands of films, audio and video cassettes, CD/DVDs, books, posters, stills, press clippings, slides, and discs of Indian cinema since early 1910s. Unfortunately, the NFAI is

getting closed by the Govt. to be taken over by the National Film Development Corporation of India.

## GERMAN FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED 2021 AWARDS

The German Film Critics Association (Verband der Deutschen Filmkritik) announced the Annual German Film Critics' Awards for best achievements in German cinema. Science fiction drama film *The Trouble with Being Born* by Sandra Wollner was honored as the best feature film of 2021. This is Wollner's second feature film which premiered at the 70th Berlin International Film Festival. Sandra also won the critics' prize for the best feature film in 2018 with her debut film *The Impossible Picture*. Johannes Maria Schmit's *New Building* was awarded as the best debut feature film of 2021. *State and Terrain* by Ute Adamczewski got the best documentary award. It already won the Golden Dove award at the 62nd International Leipzig Festival. Avant-garde filmmaker Dore O. who started her career in the 1960s breaking the conventions of the narrative tradition and leading the way for experimental filmmaking was honored with lifetime achievement award.



## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM

At 51st International Film Festival Rotterdam (26 Jan to 06 Feb 2022) the FIPRESCI Award was given to the film *To Love Again* (China, 2022, 92M) a debut fiction feature by Gao Linyang. FIPRESCI Jury composed of Andrea Crozzoli (Italy), Diego Faraone (Uruguay), Ronald Glasbergen (The Netherlands), Ana Šturm (Slovenia) and Mikhael Essam Zakarea (Egypt) followed the Tiger Competition program. The 'Tiger Award', the Top Prize of



the Festival with a cash amount of €40,000, was won by Paz Encina for her film *Eami* (Paraguay, 2022, 83M).

## GÖTEBORG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

At 45th Göteborg International Film Festival (Sweden, 28 Jan to 6 Feb 2022) the FIPRESCI Award was given to *Compartment No. 6* (Finland, Russia, Estonia, Germany, 2021, 107M) by Juho Kuosmanen. FIPRESCI Jury composed of Ariel Schweitzer (France), Max Borg (Switzerland) and Susanne Gottlieb (Austria) which followed the Nordic competition program awarded this film "for its compelling blend of epic road movie and melodrama."



## BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

At 72nd Berlinale - Berlin International Film Festival (10-20 Feb 2022) FIPRESCI Jury composed of 12 members: René Marx (France), Hsin Wang (Taiwan), Anna Maria Pasetti (Italy), Ron Fogel (Israel), Pamela Jahn (UK), Berke Göl (Turkey), Alexander Zwart (The Netherlands), Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran), Bettina Hirsch (Germany), Andrei Vasilenko (Russia), Lamia Fathy (Egypt), and Anders E. Larsson (Sweden) divided into four sub-juries, presented four awards, one each for the International Competition, Panorama section, International Forum of New Cinema, and the

Competition of Encounters. FIPRESCI Awards went to four films. Winner in the International Competition was *Leonora Addio* (Italy, 2021, 90M) by Paolo Taviani, Panorama *Bettina* (Germany, 2022, 107M) by Lutz Pehnert, International Forum *Super Natural* (Portugal, 2022, 85M) by Jorge Jácome, and in Encounters *Coma* (France, 2022, 80M) by Bertrand Bonello.

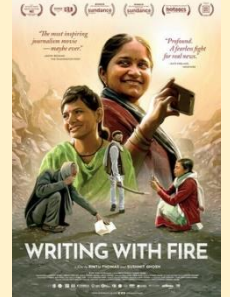


### **MONICA VITTI PASSED AWAY**

Internationally acclaimed actress Monica Vitti (B. 3 Nov 1931) passed away on 2 Feb 2022 in Rome. She was renowned for her extraordinary performances in the films directed by Michelangelo Antonioni during the 1960s. Antonioni's brilliant films *L'Avventura* (1960), *La Notte* (1961), *L'Eclisse* (1962) earned her high praise from all over the world. During her four decades long acting career she performed in many esteemed films and was honored with many national and international awards.

### **WRITING WITH FIRE NOMINATED TO OSCAR**

*Writing with Fire* (India, 2021, 94M, Documentary) produced and directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh which already participated 90+ international film festivals and won 28 international awards including two at Sundance Film Festival 2021 got nominated to the final round of the 94th Academy Awards (Oscar). The film tells the story of 'Khabar Lahariya', the only news agency in India run by Dalit (oppressed-caste) women.



### **PANORAMA OF EUROPEAN CINEMA**

FIPRESCI Award at the 34th Panorama of European Cinema, Athens (27 Jan to 2 Feb 2022) was given to Antoinette Boulat's debut film *My Night* (France Belgium, 2021, 87M). The Jury composed of Gena Teodosievska (Macedonia), Katharina Dockhorn (Germany), and Ifigenia Kalantzi (Greece).

### **PUNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

20th Pune International Film Festival will open on 3rd Mar 2022 and will continue till 10th March showcasing more than 100 feature films at 03 venues including the National Film Archive of India. Besides physical screenings, some films will also be available online. Films will be showcased in different sections like World Competition, Marathi Competition, Global Cinema, Country Focus and Retrospective. After Pune the festival will travel to Mumbai, Nagpur and Latur in Maharashtra. Government of Maharashtra recognised it as their official festival in 2010.



### **BENGALURU INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

13th Bengaluru International Film Festival will open on 3rd Mar 2022 and will continue till 10th March showcasing more than 200 feature films on 13 screens at 03 venues in Bangalore, the capital city of Karnataka. Films will be showcased in different sections like Cinema of the World, Asian Cinema Competition, Indian Cinema Competition,

Kannada Cinema Competition and Critics Week (reported above on 1st page). Besides physical screenings, some films will also be available online.

### **INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL KERALA**

26th International Film Festival of Kerala will open on 18th Mar and will continue till 25th Mar 2022 showcasing more than 100 feature films in different competitive and non-competitive sections of World Cinema, Asian Cinema, Indian Cinema and Malayalam Cinema. Competition Section of the festival is restricted to films from Asia, Africa and Latin America which includes Main Official Awards, NETPAC Award, FIPRESCI Award, FFSI KR Mohanan Endowment Award and Audience Award.

