

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

April 2022

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

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

“FIRE” OWN BEST AWARD IN FIPRESCI-INDIA CRITICS WEEK AT THRISSUR

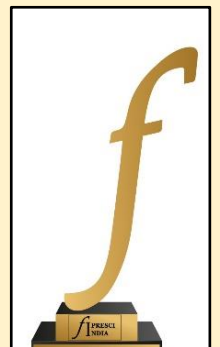


17th International Film Festival ThriSSur, opened on 25 Mar 2022 concluded on 7 Apr showcasing 70+ feature films from all over the world including 26 debut films in National Competition for K W Joseph Award and International Competition (CRITICS WEEK) for FIPRESCI-India Award! Eminent filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli was present as the Chief Guest in the closing ceremony. Aizhan Kassymbek's debut

feature film “Fire” (Kazakhstan, 2021, 82M) won the Best Film Award in the CRITICS WEEK. Other debut feature films contested for this coveted section include Haobam Paban Kumar “Nine Hills One Valley” (India, 2021, 75M), Mohammad Rabby Mridha’s “No Ground Beneath the Feet” (Bangladesh, 2021, 90M), Dastan Zhapar Uulu and Bakyt Mukul’s “The Road to Eden” (Kyrgyzstan, 2020, 121M), Daria Binevskaya’s “Africa” (Russia, 2021, 53M), Masoud Ahmadi’s “Migrants” (Iran, 2021, 85M), and Chathra Weeraman’s “Ayu, Sri Lanka, 2020, 116M). FIPRESCI-India Jury, composed of GP Ramachandran, Rekha Deshpande and Minakshi Dutta, said in their citation that the award was given to the film “for its poignant account of the struggle of an ordinary delivery man that starts unfolding an amazingly gripping story of the positive acceptance of one’s harsh reality, through eloquent visuals of ordinary day-to-day life.” The Jury also evaluated the Indian debut feature films for the K W Joseph Memorial Award. The award with a cash value of Rs.1.00 Lakh was given to Gaurav Madan for his debut feature film “Barah by Barah” (India, Hindi, 2021, 118M). Jury also awarded a Special Mention to “I’m Not the River Jhelum” (Hindi, Kashmiri, 2022, 95M) by Prabhash Chandra.

FIPRESCI-INDIA DECLARED TOP-10 FOR GRAND-PRIX-2021

FIPRESCI-India declared the TOP-10 nominations for final round of the Grand-Prix 2021. The list has been finalized on the basis of the highest number of nominations received from the members of FIPRESCI (India chapter). Following films (in alphabetical order) are the TOP-10 of 2021: 01. “Barah by Barah”, Hindi, 2021, 118M, Dir. Gaurav Madan, 02. “Godavari”, Marathi, 2021, 169M, Dir. Nikhil Mahajan, 03. “Joyful Mystery”, Malayalam, 2021, 85M, Dir. Don Palathara, 04. “Manikbabur Megh”, Bengali, 2021, 96M, Dir. Abhinandan Banerjee, 05. “Nayattu”, Malayalam, 2021, 122M, Dir. Martin Prakkat, 06. “Nine Hills One Valley”, Manipuri, 2021, 75M, Dir. Haobam Paban Kumar, 07. “Pedro”, Kannada, 2021, 109M, Dir. Natesh Hegde, 08. “Semkhor”, Dimasa, 2021, 94M, Dir. Aimee Baruah, 09. “The Great Indian Kitchen”, Malayalam, 2021, 100M, Dir. Jeo Baby, and 10. “The Road to Kuthriyar”, Tamil-English, 2021, 114M, Dir. Bharat R Mirlle. Winner of the Grand-Prix-2021 will be announced soon.



SIGNS SHORT AND DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL CONCLUDED



SiGNS is a pioneering festival in India for digital videos featuring national level competition for documentaries and short fiction for the prestigious John Abraham Awards. The Award was instituted in 1999 by the Kerala Region of Federation of Film Societies of India in memory of John Abraham, the filmmaker who was the guiding spirit behind radical initiatives for people's cinema. From 2005, the competition was extended to the national level, and the festival was renamed as SiGNS, with a focus on documentary and short films in video format. 15th edition of SiGNS was held at Muvattupuzha, Kerala from 2 to 7 April 2022. Best Short Fiction Award was given jointly to Akanshya Bhagabati for her film "Kumu" and Arun Fulara for his film "Mazhya Aaichi Girlfriend". Best Documentary award was given to Srishti Lakhera for her film "Ek Tha Gaon". Prantik Basu's "Bela" won the Best Award in Cinema Experimenta section.

BRUSSELS FESTIVAL WILL HOST FIPRESCI AWARD

The Brussels International Film Festival (23 Jun – 2 Jul 2022) will host the FIPRESCI Award. It will be the only Belgian festival where this Award will be given. The International Federation of Film Critics - FIPRESCI was founded in Brussels in 1930 and now spread over more than 80 countries. Brussels Festival will be honored to join some acclaimed festivals like Cannes, Venice, Berlin and Toronto. Only the first films showcased in the International Competition, National Competition and Directors' Week of the Festival will be eligible for the FIPRESCI Award.



ZAGREB DOX

FIPRESCI Award was given to "The Bubble" (Switzerland, Austria, 2021, 92M) by Valerie Blankenbyl at Zagreb Dox International Documentary Film Festival (3 – 10 Apr 2022). Jury composed of Pierre-Simon Gutman (France), Petra Meterc (Slovenia), and Marko Njegic (Croatia) observed the film "manages to be intimate and socio-political, humane and humorous, serious and ironic."

VISIONS DU RÉEL

FIPRESCI Award in the 53rd Visions du Réel International Film Festival Nyon, Switzerland (7 - 17 April 2022) was given to "Steel Life" (Peru, Spain, 2022, 95M) by Manuel Bauer. Jury composed of Massimo Lechi (Italy), Inge Coolsaet (Belgium), and Cristina Trezzini (Switzerland) observed the film "a subtle and thought-provoking critique of the social injustices of the capitalist system". FIPRESCI Jury followed both International Feature Film Competition and the Burning Lights Competition.



NEPAL INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

5th Nepal International Film Festival (31 Mar – 4 Apr 2022) successfully concluded in Kathmandu. Gautam Buddha Award for the Best Feature Film in the International Competition went to the film “No Ground Beneath the Feet” (Bangladesh, 2021, 90 M) directed by Mohammad Rabby Mridha. Mt. Everest Award for the Best Documentary went to “Out of Thin Air” (UK, 2020, 34M) directed by Jack Hextall. Manjushree Award for the Best Animated Short Film went to “Heart of Gold” (France, 2020, 13M) directed by Simon Filliot. National Award for the Best Nepali Feature Film went to “One Night in Kathmandu”



(2021, 70M) directed by Mohan Rai. Sudipto Acharyya (India, in Pic above), Aijaz Gul (Pakistan) and Tsering Ritar Sherpa (Nepal) were there in the Fiction Jury and Diana Ashimova (Kazakhstan), Seok Yong Chang (South Korea) and Raj Bhai Suwal (Nepal) were in the Non-Fiction Jury.



ISTANBUL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Jury presented three Awards in the 41st International Istanbul Film Festival Turkey, (8 – 19 April 2022). Jury composed of Francisco Ferreira (Portugal), Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran), Piotr Czerkawski (Poland), Erdogan Mitrani (Turkey), Sona Karapoghosyan (Armenia), Asli Ildir (Turkey) awarded films "Vortex" (France, 2022, 135M) by Gaspar Noé, "Ela and Hilmi with Ali" (Turkey, 2022, 102M) by Ziya Demirel and "Lakeshore" (Turkey, 2021, 20M) by Aziz Alaca. The FIPRESCI Award 2022 was dedicated to Murat Özer, the prominent film critic and leading figure in Turkish cinema, who passed away on 9 Mar 2022 only at the age of 56.

GO EAST

FIPRESCI Award in the 22nd Festival of Central and Eastern European Film - goEast, Wiesbaden, Germany (19 - 25 Apr 2022) was given to the films "Pilgrims" (Lithuania, 2021, 92M) by Laurynas Bareiša and "Boney Piles" (Ukraine, 2022, 80M) by Taras Tomenko. The Jury (in picture) Alik Shpilyuk (Ukraine), Senem Erdine (Turkey), and Konstanty Kuzma (Germany) in their motivation says: “The award for the Best Feature Film goes to a complex film that works on many different levels and resonates in many different ways with the terrible war happening right now. It’s a moving exploration of personal grief and the different shapes it can take. It is a subtle depiction of how the traces of a violent history are imprinted forever in a community. And in the meantime, it is unconventionally absorbing as both a crime mystery and a road movie.” Jury also declared that “The award for the Best Documentary goes to a film that we found to be convincing on all levels: artistic, cinematic, human, personal, and political. We especially like to point out the filmmaker’s ability to empathize with and be respectful towards the protagonist while being both gentle and protective.”



KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OPENED



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the 27th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival on 25 Apr 2022. Actor turned politician Shatrughan Sinha MP, was present in the inaugural session. Banerjee said that 163 films from 40 countries would be screened at the festival across 10 venues over seven days. Centenary Tribute would be paid to Satyajit Ray, Miklos Jancso and Chidananda Dasgupta. Two films, out of the FIPRESCI-India's TOP-10 of 2021: Haobam Paban Kumar's "Nine Hills One Valley" (Manipuri, 2021, 75M) and Abhinandan Banerjee's "Manikbabur Megh" (Bengali, 2021, 96M) would be screened in the competition sections.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON MERGER ISSUE

Eminent filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli, FIPRESCI-India's General Secretary Premendra Mazumder and Treasurer G P Ramachandran registered their protest against the merger of Films Division of India (estd. 1948), Children's Film Society of India (estd. 1955), National Film Archive of India (estd. 1964) and Directorate of Film Festivals in India (estd. 1973) with the National Film Development Corporation of India Limited (originally estd. 1975) in a press conference held on 6 Apr 2022 at the Press Club of Thrissur. They urged that the government should review the action taken hurriedly without consulting the issue with the stakeholders.



UPCOMING FESTIVALS

☪ Cannes (France, May 17–28, 2022). ☪ Ankara, Turkey, Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival, May 26 – June 5, 2022. ☪ Krakow, Poland, Krakow Film Festival, May 29 – June 5, 2022. ☪ Guadalajara, Mexico, Guadalajara International Film Festival, June 10–18, 2022. ☪ Annecy, France, International Animation Film Festival, June 13–18, 2022. ☪ Cluj–Napoca, Romania, Transilvania International Film Festival, June 17–26, 2022. ☪ Brussels, Belgium, The Brussels International Film Festival, June 23 to July 2, 2022. ☪ Munich, Germany, Filmfest München, June 23 – July 2, 2022. ☪ Istanbul, Turkey, Documentarist – Istanbul Documentary Days, June 25–30, 2022. ☪ Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, July 1–9, 2022. ☪ Yerevan (Armenia), Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, July 10–17, 2022. ☪ Palic, Serbia, July 16–22, 2022. ☪ Motovun, Croatia, July 26 – 30, 2022). ☪ Hong Kong. The festival takes normally place in March/April, but has been postponed to August, 2022. ☪ Locarno, Switzerland, August 3-13, 2022. ☪ Schwerin (Germany), Filmkunstfest, August 30 – September 4, 2022. ☪ Miskolc, Hungary, Cinefest – International Film Festival Miskolc, September 9–17, 2022. ☪ Tunis (Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage / Carthage Film Festival, October 29 – November 5, 2022). [To be continued]