

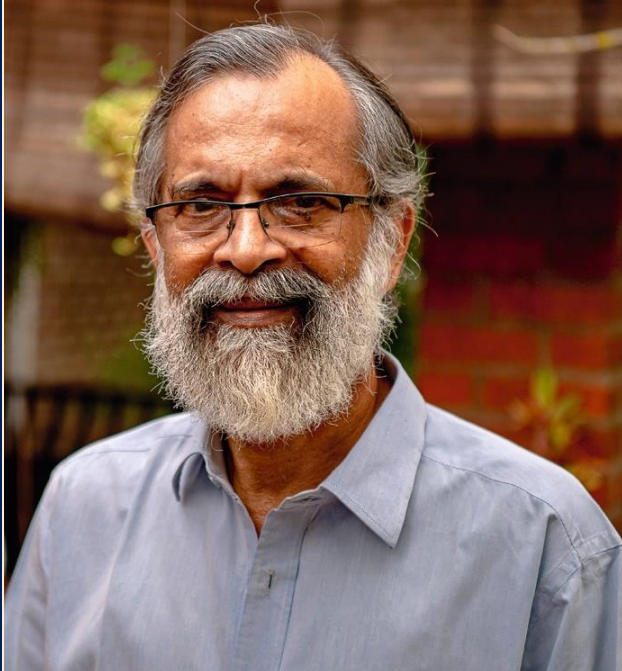
# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

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

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

## FIPRESCI-INDIA CONFERRED SATYAJIT RAY AWARD TO SHANMUGHADAS



To commemorate Satyajit Ray's Birth Centenary (2 May 1921-2021), FIPRESCI-India installed the Award titled: "SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WRITING ON CINEMA" in 2021. The Award is given on Satyajit Ray's Birthday to an author to acknowledge her/his outstanding contributions to writing on cinema (books, essays, articles, discourses) in any Indian language (including English) for propagation of film culture which was Ray's primary area of concern. Ray started his journey in the field of cinema as a writer and performed his role as an author very seriously throughout his life by writing on cinema in English and Bengali. His writings on cinema are no less important than his films. The first recipient of this Award in 2021 was Dr. Aruna Vasudev.

FIPRESCI-India is honored to confer the veteran author Prof. I. Shanmughadas as the second recipient of this coveted Award for 2022 named after Satyajit Ray.

Prof. I. Shanmughadas is a writer and film critic from

Kerala. Born in Ottappalam, Shanmughadas currently lives in Thrissur. After acquiring a postgraduate degree in English literature, he began his professional life as a teacher in Mumbai. Later, he was a lecturer in English literature in various Government colleges across the state. He retired from Shri C. Achutha Menon Government College, Thrissur. Early associations with film societies inspired him to take an active part in the film society movement and activities. He was the founder president of "Screen Unit" Mumbai.

After his illustrious teaching career Prof. I. Shanmughadas is continuing his lifelong engagements with films and pedagogy. His cheerful talks and subtle deliberations engage people of all ages and orientations irrespective of the region. He has been a popular voice of the film society movement in Kerala and has been enlightening the rural audiences and common people for decades now. Prof. Shanmughadas teaches us to be intelligent and sensitive viewers of cinema and the world that produces it. His talks also prompt us to read and substantiate our viewing with analytical and meditative thought. The unique interest and engagement with the visual, insightfulness and passion for critical analysis with a foregrounding of the experiential and the ontological seem to be instructive and enlightening. His precarious balancing of the aesthetic and social dimensions of the film and the literary texts forms a model and motivation for the young students. In the latter half of the 1970s, Shanmughadas started writing articles on cinema.

He received the National Award for the Best Film Critic in 1999. "Sanchariyude Veedu", an exclusive book on the films of Satyajit Ray, won him the State Award for the Best Book on Cinema in 1996. "Daivanarthakante Krodham", his article on M.T Vasudevan Nair's Nirmalyam, won him the State Award for the Best Article written on films of the year 2013. He is the recipient of Kerala Sahitya Akademy's "Vilasini Puraskaram" for the Best Literary Criticism for his book "Shareeram Nadhi Nakhathram" on "The God of Small Things", "G. N Pillai Endowment Award" for the Best Academic Article (2008), "Kozhikodan Award" for the Best Book on Cinema (2012) and Film Critic's Association's Awards for the Best Book on Cinema of the years 1997 and 2006.

## ICCR SEMINAR ON INDIAN CINEMA AND SOFT POWER



Ashok Rane (Left) and Meenakshi Shedde (Right) – members of FIPRESCI-India, spoke in the seminar on “Indian Cinema and Soft Power” organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Flame University Pune at the Governor House in Mumbai on 3 and 4 May 2022. On different topics, the panels included Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Shekhar Kapur, Arunaraje Patil, Roopa Ganguly, Prakash Magdum, Anant Vijay, Nila Madhab Panda, and others.

## BENGAL INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

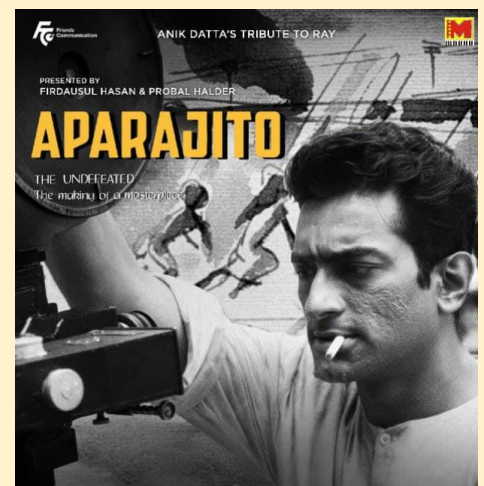


The 7<sup>th</sup> Bengal International Short Film Festival held physically at Nandan, Kolkata from 15 to 18 May 2022 showcasing 67 short fiction and documentary films from all over the world. Organizer of the Festival, the Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce (BFTCC) awarded the winners in a colorful ceremony held on 21 May in Kolkata. "Karbala Memoirs" (India, Bengali, 2020, 40M)

directed by Sourav Sarangi won the Best Documentary Award while "Breathing Memories" (Sri Lanka, 2021, 08M) directed by Sudath Abeywardana won the Best Award in the Short Fiction category. Akanshya Bhagabati won the Best Director Award for her debut film "Kumu" (India, Assamese, Short Fiction, 2021, 19M). Jaya Seal Ghosh won the Best Actress Award for the film "Soch" (India, Hindi, 2021, Short Fiction, 17M) directed by Indira Dhar Mukherjee. On this occasion the BFTCC also conferred the Lifetime Achievement Awards to the legendary actress Madhabi Mukherjee (Hiralal Sen Award, *in Picture above*), acclaimed director Goutam Ghose (Debaki Bose Award), film critic Nirmal Dhar (Kalish Mukherjee Award), producer Surindar Films (B. N. Sircar Award) and Bangladeshi actor Ilias Kanchan (Raj Razzak Award).

## APARAJITO: MAKING OF PATHER PANCHALI

“Aparajito” (The Undefeated, India, Bengali, 2022) directed by Anik Dutta and produced by Firdausul Hasan based on the struggle and hardship in making of the masterpiece "Pather Panchali" (Song of the Little Road, India, Bengali, 1955) by Satyajit Ray was released on 13<sup>th</sup> May in different cities of the country. The film is a tribute to the Master on his birth centenary. Not only acclaimed by the critics, but also the film did a fabulous business in the box office making it the most popular Bengali film in recent time. Subsequently the film was also released in several countries like UK, Australia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, and others.



## INTL. SHORT FILM FESTIVAL OBERHAUSEN



FIPRESCI Award in the 68<sup>th</sup> International Short Film Festival Oberhausen Germany (30 Apr – 9 May 2022) was given to the film "Weathering Heights" (Sweden, 2021, 30M) by Hannah Wiker Wikström. The FIPRESCI Jury (*in picture*) composed of Lamia Fathy (Egypt), Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran), and Ieva Sukytė (Lithuania) said in the motivation that the Award was given to the film "For its thoughtful way of using film language to create a deep ontological relationship between humans and nature". The film also won the Grand Prize of the City of Oberhausen worth 7,000 euros, where the Jury composed of Alice Butler (Ireland), Vanesa Fernández Guerra (Spain) and Sohrab Hura (India) in their citation said that, "This film evocatively disrupts the notion of a distinction between science fiction and our lived reality by giving expression to the difficulty of communicating in a world still reeling from the effects of a global pandemic. Weird and discomfiting, the film manages to create a sensorial experience that feels sticky in its seepages as it probes through life in rural Sweden."

## CANNES FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDED

75<sup>th</sup> edition of the Cannes Film Festival was held in France from 17 to 28 May 2022. FIPRESCI Awards were given to the following films in different sections: In the Official Selection – Competition Section FIPRESCI Award was given to "Leila's Brothers" (Iran, 2022, 169M) by Saeed Roustaei with a citation – "For the director's ability to craft an engaging story, very dense of cultural insights, drawing a microcosm of dysfunctional patriarchy and swifiting freely – and joyfully – between tones."



In the Official Selection – Un Certain Regard Section the FIPRESCI Award was given to the film "Le Bleu du caftan/ The Blue Caftan" (Morocco, France, Denmark, Belgium, 2022, 118M) by Maryam Touzani with the citation – "This is an award to braveness. The director was brave enough to give her gaze on the concealed homosexuality of a married man in Morocco. Through her work, she knows how to show us the world and the sad reality of a nation that she loves over all else."

To a first feature in the parallel sections, Directors' Fortnight or Critic's Week the FIPRESCI Award was given to "Love According To Dalva" (Belgium, France, 80M, 2022) by Emmanuelle Nicot (presented at the Critic's Week) with the citation – "A well-crafted narration of a teenage girl's return to normal life against incest and pedophilia, in a gentle and subtle way."

The FIPRESCI Jury was composed of Ahmed Shawky (Egypt - President), Mariola Wiktor (Poland), Nathalie Chifflet (France), Emanuel Levy (USA), Simone Soranna (Italy), Jihane Bougrine (Morocco), Magali Van Reeth (France), Bidhan Rebeiro (Bangladesh) and Youssoufa Halidou Harouna (Niger). Ruben Östlund won Palme d'Or for "Triangle of Sadness," (Sweden, France, UK, Germany, Turkey, USA, 2022, 149M). This was his second Palme d'Or after 2017.



Four Indian films were there in Cannes this year: 1<sup>st</sup> Satyajit Ray's "Pratidwandi" (The Adversary, India, 1970, 110M) in "Cannes Classics" section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aravindan Govindan's "Thamp" (The Circus Tent, India, 1978, 129M) also in "Cannes Classics" section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Shaunak Sen's documentary "All that Breathes" (USA, India, UK, 2022, 94M) in "Special Screenings" section, and 4<sup>th</sup> Pratham Khurana's short "Nauha" (India, 2021, 26M) in "Cinefondation" section. Shaunak Sen's documentary "All That Breathes" which won the "World Cinema Grand Jury Award" at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival also won "L'OEil D'Or" or "Golden Eye" Award at Cannes this year (*in picture*).

## MIFF-2022 OPENED

17<sup>th</sup> Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) opened on 29 May 2022 at Nehru Centre, Worli. Sanjit Narwekar received the V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award during the opening ceremony (*in picture*). MIFF will be held till 4 June at the Films Division Complex, Pedder Rd. This is the oldest and largest film festival for non-feature



films in South Asia established in 1990 organized by the Films Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India. Apart from competition and non-competition sections, interactive sessions like workshops, master classes, and open forum are some of the major activities of the festival. MIFF 2022 received 808 entries from 30 countries out of which around 400 will be screened in different sections including 102 in competitions. The Best Film will receive the Golden Conch Award with a cash amount of Rs. 10 lakhs. IDPA Award worth Rs. 1 lakh given by the Indian Documentary Producers' Association for the Best Student Film and Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award for the Best Debut Director will also be presented on the closing day. Bangladesh is the Country Focus of this edition to commemorate 50 years of Liberation of Bangladesh showcasing 11 films of the country which includes: "Araimon Shopno" (Fiction/2020/35M) by Abu Shahed Emon, "Garden of Memories" (Docu/2019/55M) by Humaira Bilkis, "Silence" (Fiction/2018/12M) by Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, "Dojahan" (Docu/2021/73M) by Ratan Paul, "Jothorleena" (Docu/2019/40M) by Dilara Begum Jolly, "Born Together" (Docu/2016/72M) by Shabnam Ferdousi, "Not a Penny Not a Gun"(Docu/2013/40M) by Makbul Chowdhury, "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale" (Docu/2018/70M) by Piplu Khan, "Ripples" (Fiction/2021/45M) by Senjutee Suborna Tushee, "Kaan Pete Roi" (Docu/2009/35M) by Mafidul Haque, and "Jolo Guerrilla" (Docu/2020/52M) by Sumon Delwar.



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## E-CINEINDIA CALLS FOR PAPERS

Intending contributors are requested to submit their proposals for Papers on Cinema to the Editor, E-CineIndia (ISSN: 2582-2500) at [indiafipresci@gmail.com](mailto:indiafipresci@gmail.com). Only the original Papers never published earlier elsewhere and free from plagiarism will be considered.

## UPCOMING FESTIVALS

☪ 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]

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