

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-25

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

NAANERA WON FIPRESCI-INDIA BEST FILM AWARD IN AURANGABAD



Deepankar Prakash's 2nd feature film *Naanera* (Rajasthani, 2022, 116M) won Fipresci-India Best Film Award in the 8th Ajanta Ellora International Film Festival- AIFF (earlier known as Aurangabad IFF) held at Aurangabad from 11 to 15 Jan 2023. The Jury composed of Mr. N Vidyashankar, Ms. Meena Karnik and Dr. Rwita Dutta said in citation that 'Crafted in a standard



framework of societal norms and defined relationships, it's seemingly simple narrative subverts the film into a work of filmic transcendence.' The Jury watched the 1st and 2nd films of a director in the international category. *Naanera* also won the Golden Kailasha Award for the Best Film with a cash amount of Rs.100,000/-, along with the Best Director (Deepankar Prakash), Best Screenplay (Deepankar Prakash and Bharat Singh), and Best Editor (Mayur Tela) Awards. Best Actor (Female) Award was won by Akshatha Pandavapura for the Kannada film *Koli Esru* (Chicken Curry, 2022, 83M) by Champa Shetty. Jeetu Kamal won the Best Actor (Male) Award for the Bengali film *Aparajito* (2022, 133M) by Anik Dutta. *Aparajito* also won the Best Music (Debojyoti Mishra), Best Sound (Tirthankar Majumdar) and Best Cinematography (Supratim Bhol) Awards. Girish Mohite's Marathi film *Taath Kana* (Standing Tall, 2022, 120M) won the

Jury Mention. Veteran filmmaker and writer Sri Arun Khopkar was felicitated with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award. During the Festival, Fipresci-India organized a Seminar on Film Criticism in collaboration with AIFFF, MGM College of Journalism & Mass Communication and MGM School of Film Arts on 14 Jan at the MGM University. Mr. N Vidyashankar, Ms. Meena Karnik and Dr. Rwita Dutta were the speakers. Sri Ashok Rane, Festival Director of AIFFF, chaired the session participated by a large number of students, and addressed by the VC of the MGM University, Aurangabad.

AIFF AJANTA-ELLORA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AURANGABAD | 11-15 JAN 2023

FIPRESCI INDIA

AJANTA ELLORA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MGM COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION
MGM SCHOOL OF FILM ARTS

FIPRESCI-INDIA SEMINAR ON FILM CRITICISM IN THE ERA OF NEW MEDIA
14 JANUARY 2023 SATURDAY 10AM

Speakers
N Vidyashankar
Meena Karnik
Rwita Dutta

Moderator
Premendra Mazumder

Chair
Ashok Rane

Rekha Shelke
Principal
MGM College of Journalism and Mass Communication

SUDHIR NANDGAONKAR**11 Jun 1939 – 1 Jan 2023**

Sudhir Nandgaonkar was born on 11 June 1939 in a village Nandgaon, in the coastal district Ratnagiri in Maharashtra. His parents were Vasudeo and Indira Nandgaonkar. At the age of six, he lost his mother. The village only had a primary school and so for secondary standard he was sent to a boarding school from where he came to Mumbai in 1962 for higher education. He joined Siddarth College in Fort in 1964 and lived with his eldest sister in Girgaum. He graduated with honours and completed his master's degree in Marathi language from the University of Mumbai. As soon as he arrived in Bombay he started his career as a film critic in 1962 in the 'Daily Maratha' where he continued till 1976. From 1976 to 1992 he worked as a film critic for the weekly 'Rasrang'. From 1992 he worked as a freelance film critic.



He was a stalwart leader of the film society movement in India, and also one of the pioneer leaders of organizing independent film festivals in India. In 1997 he started the International Film Festival of Mumbai (popularly known as MAMI) as its Artistic Director and continued till 2008. He also founded the Third Eye Asian Film in Mumbai 20 years back and continued as the Festival Director till his last breath. Even during its 19th edition held from 12 to 18 Dec 2022 he monitored the festival from his bed.

'Prabhat Chitra Mandal' – one of the biggest film societies in India was founded by him in 1968 and he was there in the helm of affairs till his last day. At the apex level, he served the posts of the Regional Secretary, General Secretary and Vice President of the Federation of Film Societies of India, and also represented in the General Assembly of the International Federation of Film Societies in Italy in 2009. He also served the office of the Secretary and President of the India Chapter of the International Federation of Film Critics – FIPRESCI. He served on the Advisory Panel of Film Censor Board in Mumbai for two terms. He was also a member of the Film Import Committee of NFDC. He served in the Jury of Maharashtra State Film Awards Committee for several times. He served in the FIPRESCI Jury in Karlovy Vary, Kerala, Singapore, Hongkong, and Pusan.

He was a close associate of Atal Behari Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister of India and translated his political speeches inside and outside the Parliament titled 'Ataljinche Awahan' in 1973. He edited an anthology of Vajpayee's non-political speeches in Hindi titled 'Rajniti Ke Us Paar' in 2004 which was released by the then Vice President of India H.E. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi. He translated Chidananda Dasgupta's book on Satyajit Ray's cinema in Marathi titled 'Abhijaat' in 1993. He authored the book 'Cinema Sanskruti' (Film Culture) in Marathi in 2017. To fill the vacuum of quality film criticism in Marathi, he started a film journal 'Roopvani' for Prabhat Chitra Mandal. He completed his novel 'Pyasa' based on the life of the iconic actor Guru Dutt just before his death. He was felicitated by FIPRESCI-India in Bangalore in 2019. Asian Film Foundation conferred him the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for Promotion of Film Culture on 11 Dec 2022. He died at his residence in Thane on 1 January 2023. He is survived by his wife, two sons and one daughter. His undying spirit, energy, dynamism, simplicity, warmth, affection, honesty, perseverance, passion for cinema, and unmeasurable contribution to promote film culture will be remembered forever!



FIPRESCI AWARD IN DHAKA

Khandaker Sumon's debut feature film *Saatao* (Memories of Gloomy Monsoon, Bangladesh, 2022, 97M) won the FIPRESCI International Critics Award in the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival (14-22 Jan 2023). The Jury composed of Elena Rubashevskaya (Ukraine), Axel Purr (Germany), and Bidhan Rebeiro (Bangladesh), followed the films in Bangladesh Panorama section of the festival. The Jury in their citation said: 'The primary concern of this film

is the human relationship with nature and the struggle to survive. A mother's love for a calf and a farmer's life struggle against hostile nature, capitalist society, and global implications make this film stand out. Moreover, it convinces with a subtle sound design, complex cinematography, and an outstanding performance by the actors who manage with minimal dialogue and realistic acting to show us a deep and moving local story with a universal appeal". After the 53rd International Film Festival of India – IFFI Goa and 8th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (in competition) this was the 3rd official participation of this crowd funded film in the international festival circuit!

PALM SPRINGS

FIPRESCI International Critics Award in the 34th Palm Springs International Film Festival (USA 5 to 16 Jan 2023) went to the film *Saint Omer* (France, 2022, 122M) by Alice Diop. The Jury composed of Robert Horton (USA), Anders E Larsson (Sweden), and Andrew Kendall (Guyana).



TROMSO

FIPRESCI Jury composed of Neil Young (UK), Eva Peydró (Spain), and Håkon Tveit (Norway) in the 33rd Tromso International Film Festival (Norway, 16-22 Jan 2023) went to the film *Pacifiction* (France, Spain, Germany, Portugal, 2022, 165M) by

Albert Serra. The film was showcased at the 75th Cannes Film Festival on 26 May 2022.

ROTTERDAM

FIPRESCI Award in the 52nd International Film Festival Rotterdam (The Netherlands, 25 Jan to 5 Feb 2023) went to the film *La Palisiada* (Ukraine, 2023, 100M) by Philip Sotnychenko. The Jury composed of Francisco Ferreira, Mónica Delgado, Serhiy Ksaverov, Dunja Bialas, and Boaz van Luijk (pic. L to R) in their motivation said: 'Skillfully using different aesthetics and mediums, *La Palisiada* masterfully reflects on cinema as an instrument of intent and its ability to create, multiply and erase different versions of truths'.





GÖTEBORG

FIPRESCI Award in the 46th Göteborg International Film Festival (Sweden 27 Jan to 5 Feb 2023) was given to the film *Ellos Eatnu – Let the River Flow* (Norway, 2023, 118M) by Ole Giæver. The Jury composed of Teréz Vincze (Hungary), Beat Glur (Switzerland), and Britt Sørensen (Norway) said in their motivation that: ‘The film’s story takes us up to the most northern part of Europe where some 40 years ago Norwegian national history was written. Those events raised the consciousness of Norwegian society and led to the modern Sámi awakening. The strong and well-balanced script features a universal issue that is impressively manifested in the performance of a young Sámi woman played by non-professional Ella Marie Hætta Isaksen in her first screen appearance. The movie masterfully conveys the sorrowful mood caused by the threat of a disappearing culture, of the loss of identity, of language, and of family ties.’ The prize was handed over to the co-producer Lizette Jonjic (in Pic: courtesy FIPRESCI).

AMERICAN CRITICS VOTED BESTS OF 2022

The National Society of Film Critics of the United States of America in its 57th annual awards voting meeting (online) held on 7 Jan 2023 using a weighted ballot system declared the following winners for the year 2022: Best Film- *Tar* (USA, Germany, 2022, 158M) by Todd Field; Best Director- Charlotte Wells for *Aftersun* (USA, UK, 2022, 101M); Best Actress- Cate Blanchett for *Tár*; Best Supporting Actress- Kerry Condon for *The Banshees of Inisherin* (USA, UK, Ireland, 2022, 114M) by Martin McDonagh; Best Actor- Colin Farrell for *After Yang* (USA, 2022, 96M) by Kogonada and *The Banshees of Inisherin*; Best Supporting Actor- Ke Huy Quan for *Everything Everywhere All at Once* (USA, 2022, 139M) by Daniel Kwan; Best Screenplay- Todd Field for *Tár*; Best Non Fiction- *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed* (USA, 2022, 113M) by Laura Poitras; and Best Cinematography- Michał Dymek for the film *EO* (Poland, Italy, 2022, 88M) by Jerzy Skolimowski.



SUMITRA PERIES PASSED AWAY

Highly acclaimed Sri Lankan filmmaker Sumitra Peries (B. 24 Mar 1934) passed away on 19 Jan 2023 in Colombo. She was one of the pioneer women filmmakers of Sri Lanka, popularly known as the ‘Poetess of Sinhala Cinema’. She was married to the legendary filmmaker Lester James Peries who was considered as the father of Sri Lankan cinema. Sumitra with over 10 films to her credit, and having worked as screenwriter, director, producer and editor, emerged as one of the country’s foremost cultural icons. She also served as Sri Lanka’s Ambassador to France and Spain in 1996–1999 and was appointed as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Nations by then President Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaratunge. There are two books written about her, namely, *Sumitra Peries*- by Vilasnee Tampoe-Hautin (in English) and *Sumitra* – by Ajith Galappaththi (in Sinhala).

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