

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-26

February 2023

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

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

SIGNS 2023 CONCLUDED WITH JOHN ABRAHAM NATIONAL AWARDS



SiGNS is a pioneering festival in India for digital videos with a competition for short fiction and documentaries for the coveted John Abraham National Award instituted by the Kerala Region of the Federation of Film Societies of India to pay tribute to the maestro who was the guiding spirit behind radical initiatives for people's cinema. Like previous years, in this edition also the festival emphasized on the issues like state oppression, human rights, environment, gender equality, social and cultural identity by showcasing a total 123 films in different sections from 20 to 23 Feb 2023 at the EVM Cinema at Perumbavoor in Kerala. During the closing ceremony the 16th John Abraham National Awards were given to the following films: Best Short Fiction – *Path* by Pradip Kurbah, Best Documentary – *Trans Kashmir* by Surabhi Dewan & S A Hanan, Best Film on Cinema of Resistance – *In A Dissent Manner* by Ehrasz Asmaduz Zaman, Best Film on Cinema Experimenta – *A Season of Mangoes* by Ishan Sharma, FFSI Award for Best Malayalam Short Fiction – *Since Forever* by Nisam Asaf, FFSI Award for Best Malayalam Documentary – *Black & White* by Manilal, Jury Mention for Documentary – *Ruuposh* by Mohd Fehmeed & Zeeshan Amir Khan, and Jury Mention on Cinema Experimenta – *Can They Hear Our Songs?* by Mehdi Jahan. The awards included a citation, a trophy and a cash amount of Rs.50,000/- each for the best short fiction and best documentary, Rs.25,000/- each for the best cinema of resistance and cinema experimenta, and Rs.10,000/- each for the best Malayalam short fiction and documentary. The Jury was composed of Ashok Rane, Anomaa Rajakaruna, and Babu Kambrath. On this occasion the 4th FFSI Vijaya Mulay Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 was also conferred to Premendra Mazumder. Earlier recipients of this coveted award were Aruna Vasudev (2020), Chelavoor Venu (2021), and Amrit Gangar (2022). The award installed by FFSI Kerala to pay tribute to Vijaya Mulay (16 May 1921 – 19 May 2019), the pioneer leader of the film society movement in India, includes a citation, a trophy and a cash amount of Rs.50,000/-



FIPRESCI-INDIA ORGANIZED FAC IN BANGALORE AND IMPHAL



Fipresci-India in collaboration with the Manipur State Film and Television Institute (MSFTI) organized a 15-day full time Film Appreciation Course (FAC) at MSFTI Auditorium in Imphal from 20 Feb to 06 Mar 2023. About 30 participants joined the FAC. On behalf of Fipresci-India Vidyashankar N, Meghachandra Kongbam, Minakshi Dutta and Pranjal Borah conducted the sessions on various aspects of understanding cinema as a form of art. Fipresci-India also organized a week-end

FAC in collaboration with the RV University in Bangalore from 10 to 12 Feb 2023 where more than 30 participants took part. On behalf of Fipresci-India Vidyashankar N, MK Raghavendra, Girish Kasaravalli, Sunny Joseph, and Pradeep Kenchanuru conducted their sessions. On behalf of the RV University Bangalore Debjani Halder, Lakshmi Arya Thathachar, Rajiv Vijaykar, and Piyush Roy took their sessions. A memorandum of understanding for the future cooperation was signed by Fipresci-Indian and RV University Bangalore. Fipresci-India is negotiating with the concerned departments of several other Universities and Colleges for conducting such courses for propagation of film culture in the country.

BANGLADESH FILM FESTIVAL

Federation of Film Societies of India presented the 5th Bangladesh Film Festival at Nandan, Kolkata on 27 and 28 Feb 2023 showcasing the Bengali feature films *Payer Chhap* (2022, 120M) by Saiful Islam Mannu, *Damal* (2022, 130M) by Raihan Rafi, *Beauty Circus* (2022, 120M) by Mahmud Didar and *Paap-Punnya* (2022, 125M) by Giasuddin Selim.



BANGLADESH
5th film festival 2023
27 & 28 February 2023 at NANDAN-III, Kolkata

Organized by
Federation of Film Societies of India
Eastern Region



SCHEDULE

27 Feb Monday

2.30 to 4.30pm : **Payer Chhap** (2022, 120M)
by Saiful Islam Mannu

4.45 to 6.55pm : **Damal** (2022, 130M)
by Raihan Rafi

28 Feb Tuesday

2.30 to 4.30pm : **Beauty Circus** (2022, 120M)
by Mahmud Didar

4.45 to 6.50pm : **Paap-Punnya** (2022, 125M)
by Giasuddin Selim



The festival organized in collaboration with the Impress Telefilms, the biggest production house of Bangladesh promoting the art-house cinema, will take place in different other cities of India very soon.

LUXOR AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize at the 12th Luxor African Film Festival has been awarded to the film *Gazing at the Stars* (Simin Zetwal) by David Constantin (Mauritius, 2022, 93 mins). The Jury consisting of Massimo Lechi (Italy), Nadjibou Sagna (Senegal), and Mohamed Sayed Abdel Rehim (Egypt) in their citation said that the award is given to the film 'For its beautifully crafted and surprisingly original cinematic depiction of the complex cultural mosaic of the Mauritian society'.



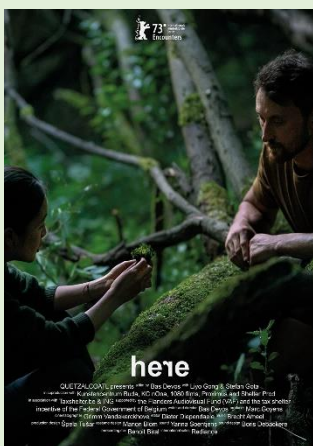
BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



FIPRESCI Jury in the 73rd Berlinale - Berlin International Film Festival (Germany, 16 to 26 Feb 2023) was composed of Marcelo Janot (Brazil), Nirmal Dhar (India), Gena Teodosievska (Macedonia), Jiongguang Chen (Germany), Elena Rubashevskaya (Ukraine), Hosam Mostafa Fahmy (Egypt), Susanne Gietl (Germany), Diana Martirosyan (Armenia), Beat Glur (Switzerland), Yun-hua Chen (Germany), Inge Coolsaet (Belgium), and Andreea Patru (Romania). Jury Coordinator – Rüdiger Suchsland (Germany). (PC: FIPRESCI).

FIPRESCI Prizes awarded to the following films:

The Survival of Kindness (2023, Australia, 96 mins) by Rolf de Heer in the Main Competition category with the citation: “It’s a film made with a deep sense of understanding of cinematic art, clearly standing out in the competition by dealing with dystopia in a fresh and strong way to bring across a political message against racism and colonization”.



Here (2023, Belgium, 82 mins) by Bas Devos in the Encounters section with the citation: “This quiet ballad draws our attention to the rhizomatic connections that exist around us but often go unnoticed. The composition is skillfully orchestrated, and the camera is often static. When the camera does move, it moves at a human pace and with a gentle fluidity, unhurried and serene. As two individuals with distinct backgrounds and life experiences observe mosses in the forest together, almost meditatively, they traverse a shared here and now, transcending all human-made boundaries that permeate our world. A thought-provoking exploration that is both metaphorical and philosophical, and a visual delight”.

The Quiet Migration (Stille Liv, 2023, Denmark, 102 mins) by Maléne Choi in the Panorama section with the citation: “The Danish film *The Quiet Migration* is awarded for its exquisite cinematography depicting solitude and alienation and the sensitive portrayal of the inner life of its protagonist, blurring the lines between reality and his imagination”.

Between Revolutions (Intre revolutii, 2023, Romania, Croatia, Iran, Qatar, 68 mins) by Vlad Petri in Forum section with the citation: “Petri’s second feature film is a documentary. Following the correspondence of two women who lived in different regimes in the 70s and 80s, the film shows similarities and differences between Iran and Romania. *Between Revolutions*’ poetic approach leaves space for interpretation; combined with the well-edited material, it unfolds in all its force”.

Along with the FIPRESCI award, the prize of the Europa Cinemas was also announced: İlker Çatak’s *The Teachers’ Lounge* (Das Lehrerzimmer) won the Europa Cinemas Label as Best European film in the Panorama section.



FIPRESCI-INDIA PUBLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ON DEMAND

Following publications of Fipresci-India are now available at your door step on demand:

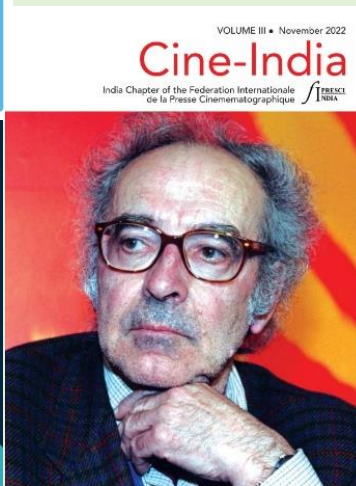
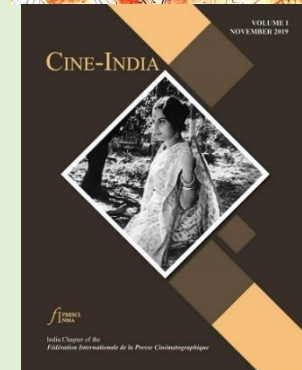
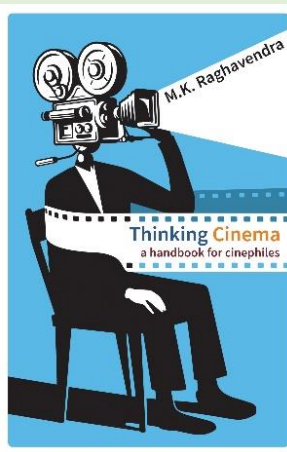
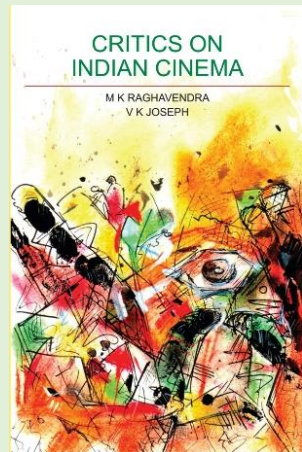
- CRITICS ON INDIAN CINEMA (Ed): VK Joseph and MK Raghavendra (295pg. HB. Rs.600)
- THINKING CINEMA: A Handbook for Cinephiles by MK Raghavendra (388pg. PB. Rs.600)

- CINE-INDIA Vol-I Nov 2019 (96pg. Rs.200)

- CINE-INDIA Vol-II Nov 2021 (96pg. Rs.200)

- CINE-INDIA Vol-III Nov 2022 (104pg. Rs.200)

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The Books (first two titles), published in collaboration with the Federation of Film Societies of India Kerala Region and the Best Books Kolkata are also available online at Amazon and

Flipkart. Bulk copies could be procured from FFSI Kerala Office at Chirakkulam Rd. Trivandrum 695001 and the Best Books, 1A College Row, Kolkata 700009.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS IN 2023

☞ The Luxembourg City Film Festival (2–12 Mar) ☞ Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival (Greece, 2–12 Mar) ☞ International Film Festival Thrissur (India, 3–10 Mar) ☞ Ismailia International Film Festival for Documentaries and Shorts (Egypt, 14–20 Mar) ☞ Nepal International Film Festival (Kathmandu, 16–20 Mar) ☞ Vilnius International Film Festival Kino Pavasaris (Lithuania, 16–26 Mar) ☞ Sofia International Film Festival (Bulgaria, 16–31 Mar) ☞ Saguenay International Short Film Festival: Regard (Canada, 22–26 Mar) ☞ Cinélatino: Rencontres de Toulouse (France, 24 Mar–2 Apr) ☞ ZagrebDox: Zagreb International Documentary Festival (Croatia, 26 Mar–2 Apr) ☞ Bengaluru International Film Festival (India, 23–30 Mar) ☞ Hong Kong International Film Festival (30 Mar–10 Apr) ☞ Istanbul International Film Festival (Turkey, 7–18 Apr) ☞ Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema (Argentina, 19–30 Apr) ☞ Visions du Réel International Film Festival Nyon (Switzerland, 21–30 Apr) ☞ Oberhausen International Short Film Festival (Germany, 26 Apr–1 May) ☞ Wiesbaden goEast: Festival of Central and Eastern European Films (Germany, 27 Apr–2 May) ☞ Kraków Mastercard OFF CAMERA International Festival of Independent Cinema (Poland, 28 Apr–7 May) ☞ Cannes Film Festival (France, 16–27 May) ☞ Brussels International Film Festival (Belgium, 27 Jun–5 Jul) ☞ Munich FilmFest (Germany, 23 Jun–1 Jul) ☞ Castellorizo Film Festival: Beyond Borders (Greece, 20–27 Aug) ☞ Miskolc International Film Festival (Hungary, 1–9 Sep) ☞ San Sebastian Film Festival (Spain, 22–30 Sep) ☞ World Film Festival Kolkata (India, 20–25 Sep) ... to be continued ▶

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