

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-27

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18th INTL. FILM FESTIVAL THRISSUR CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY



Ace cinematographer Sunny Joseph won the coveted K W Joseph Award (*pic. above*▲) for the Best Indian Debut Film (with a cash amount of Rs. 1.00 Lakh) for his directorial debut *Bhoomiyude Uppu: Salt of The Earth* (Malayalam, 2022, 90M) in the 18th International Film Festival of Thrissur held in Kerala from 3 to 9 March 2023. The Official Jury comprised Biju Kumar Damodaran, Premendra Mazumder and N C Rajanarayan in their citation said that “the jury unanimously selected the film *Bhoomiyude Uppu* directed by Sunny Joseph for the K W Joseph film award for initiating a conversation and questioning on god’s existence and silence in a philosophical texture. Jury find that the film discusses a socio political subject in the context of god and man which is most relevant in this time.”

Bulletproof Children (Sri Lanka) by Indika Ferdinando and *Don’t Bury Me without Ivan* (Russia) by Lubov’ Borisova jointly won the Fipresci-India Critics Award in the festival. Fipresci-India Jury comprised Ashok Rane, N Manu Chakravarthy and Sreedevi P Aravind in their citations said: “*Don’t Bury Me Without Ivan* is awarded for a moving existential and aesthetic experience that captures the universal human longing for wisdom and beauty in life, especially through nature; and the *Bullet Proof Children* for a cinematic narrative that breaks mere realism and creates excellent allegorical narratives that fully uphold the eternal innocence and goodness of children that confront all powers of disintegration, oppression and violence”.

APARAJITO WON FIPRESCI AWARD IN B’LORE

FIPRESCI International Critics Jury comprised Manuel Halpern (Portugal), Sadia Khalid Reeti (Bangladesh) and Latika Padgaonkar (India) awarded the FIPRESCI Prize to *Aparajito* (India, Bengali, 2022, 133M) by Anik Dutta in the 14th Bengaluru International Film Festival (23-30 March 2023). Jury in their citation said: “Anik Dutta has captivated his audiences once again with *Aparajito*, his homage to Satyajit Ray. The film is beautifully structured around a single interview and visualizes the hurdles the maestro went through when filming his magnum opus *Pather Panchali*. We were unanimously in favour of awarding this film for its mastery of the craft of storytelling through well rounded characters, bringing to life a piece of history that will forever be a source of pride for Bengali and Indian cinema.”



14th BENGALURU INTL. FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY



14th Bengaluru International Film Festival opened on 23 March through a colorful ceremony at the huge entrance of the State Assembly House (pic. above▲) concluded successfully on 30 March by conferring several awards. In the Asian Competition section the Best Award was shared between *Before Now and Then* (Indonesia, 2022, 103M) by Kamila Andini and *Motherless* (Iran, 2022, 84M) by Seyyed Morteza Fatemi. Second Best Film Award was won by *Sand* (Sri Lanka, 2022, 100M) by Visakesa Chandrasekaran. Third Best Award was also shared between the films *A Tale of Two Sisters* (Bangladesh, 2022, 100M) by Akram Khan and *Viraatapura Viraagi* (India, Kannada, 2022, 178M) by B S Lingadevaru. *Koli Esru: Chicken Curry* (India, Kannada, 2022, 83M) by Champa Shetty won the Best Indian Film Award in the 'Chitrabharati' section (pic. right▶). *Naanu Kusuma* (India, Kannada, 2022, 105M) by Krishnegowda won the Best Kannada Film Award.



THESSALONIKI INTL. DOCU FESTIVAL

At the 25th Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival (Greece, 2 - 12 March 2023) the FIPRESCI Award was given to *I Like it Here* (USA, 2022, 88M) by Nanu Ralph Arlyck and *Kristos, The Last Child* (Italy, France, Greece, 2022, 90M) by Giulia Amati. Jury comprised Petra Meterc (Slovenia), Dimitra Bouras (Belgium), and Yannis Kantea Papadopoulos (Greece).

LUXEMBOURG FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award in the 13th LuxFilmFest (Luxembourg, 2 - 12 March 2023) was given to the film *World War III* (Iran, 2022, 107M) by Houman Seyyedi. Jury comprised Marina Kostova (Macedonia), Ahmed Shawky (Egypt), and Jeff Schinker (Luxembourg). The film was selected as the Iranian entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 95th Academy Awards. It also competed for the Orizzonti Award at the 79th Venice International Film Festival and won Orizzonti Award for Best Actor and Orizzonti Award for Best Film.





ISMAILIA FESTIVAL FOR DOCU & SHORTS

FIPRESCI Award in the 24th Ismailia Festival for Documentaries and Shorts (Egypt, 14 - 20 March 2023) was given to the film *My Lost Country* (Costa Rica, Iraq, Chile, Egypt, 2022, 93M) by Ishtar Yasin Gutiérrez. Jury comprised Frédéric Jaeger (Germany), Amal Elgamal (Egypt), and Ahmed Alayyad (Saudi Arabia). The film already participated and acclaimed in many film festivals including the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam.

SOFIA INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award in the 27th Sofia International Film Festival (Bulgaria, 16 -31 March 2023) was given to the film *Zapatos Rojos* (Red Shoes, Mexico, Italy, 2022, 83M) by Carlos Eichelmann Kaiser. Jury comprised Michael Ranze (Germany), Rossen Spassov (Bulgaria), and Ladislav Volko (Slovakia). The film deals with gender-based violence against women in Mexico was in the International Competition Segment for the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 53rd International Film Festival of India: IFFI-Goa.



SAGUENAY SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award in the 27th Regard - Saguenay International Short Film Festival (Canada, 22 - 26 March 2023) was given to the film *Madeleine* (Canada, 2022, 15M) by Raquel Sancinetti. Jury comprised Michela Manente (Italy), Enoe Lopes Pontes (Brazil), and Pat Mullen (Canada) in their citation said: "In this road movie five years in the making, the director portrays with great empathy a friendship that spans 67 years



and crosses 8,000 kilometers. With its fluid balance between documentary and animation, this film is a beautiful journey full of heart, humor, and ageless wisdom".

APARAJITA PUJARI WON STATE AWARD FOR BEST WRITING IN CINEMA

Fipresci-India Member Aparajita Pujari won the prestigious Pabitra Kumar Deka Award for Best Writing in Cinema for 2018 in the recently declared 8th Assam State Film Awards for the years 2018 and 2019. The award ceremony was held on 13 March 2023 at Srimanta Sankardeva International Auditorium, Guwahati. Tarali Sarma, Rajni Basumatary, Bhaskar Hazarika, Amrit Pritam, Rima Das, Subhrajyoti Neog, Utpal Datta, Baharul Islam, Amrita Gogoi, Anurag Saikia, Monjul Baruah, Arup Borthakur, Benjamin Daimari, Jahanara Begum, Anwar Hussain, Bishnu Kharghoria, Anupam Kaushik Borah, Quan Bay, Pratim Khaound, Pradim Daimary, and several others won the awards in different categories for two years. The Awards are given by the Assam State Film (Finance & Development) Corporation Ltd, in collaboration with the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Assam with an approximate total cash amount of Rs. 26 Lakhs in different categories.



6th NEPAL INTL. FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY



6th Nepal International Film Festival, opened on 16 March in Kathmandu (pic. above▲) concluded on 20 March successfully showcasing 95 films from 35 countries. Gautam Buddha Award with a cash of 1500 USD for the Best Feature Film in the International Competition was given to *Memories of Gloomy Monsoons* (Saatao, Bangladesh) by Khandaker Sumon. Official Jury comprised Premendra Mazumder (India), Jeff Monahan (USA), and Priyanka Karki (Nepal) in their citation said: “A very touching story of the need for love, and how much one is willing to sacrifice for those we love. Beautiful cinematography, wonderful performances, and interesting use of actual events add to the realism of the film.” Jury awarded *Butterfly on a Windowpane* (Nepal) by Sujit Bidari as the Best National Feature Film with a cash of 100,000 NPR. The film also won the Awards for Best Director (Sujit Bidari), Best Screenplay (Sujit Bidari), and Best Child Artist (Dinesh Khatri). Jury also awarded Pradeep Khadka as the Best Actor, Deeya Maskey as the Best Actress, and Rajesh Shrestha as the Best Cinematographer for the film *Prakash* (Nepal) by Dinesh Raut. Short and Documentary Jury comprised of Li Ran (China), Etami Borjan (Croatia), and Indra Lal Balami (Nepal) conferred The Mount Everest Award for the Best International Documentary with a cash of 1000 USD to *Mentawai: Souls of the Forest* (Indonesia) directed by Joo Peter. Bagmati Award for the Best Short Live Action with a cash of 500 USD given to *The Book* (Iran) by Farzad Foroughi. AK Sherpa Award with a cash of 50,000 NPR for the Best National Documentary given to *The Tigers Jaw* (Nepal) by Kamal Kumar. Manjushree Award with a cash of 500 USD for the Best Animated Film went to *The Legend of Goldhorn* (Slovenia) by Lea Vučko. *Junko* (Nepal) by Minsho Limbu won the Best National Short Film Award with a cash of 50,000 NPR. Best Director Award for National Short Fiction given to Pradhuma Mishra for his film *Dubidha* (Nepal). IFFS Jury of the International Federation of Film Societies comprised of Golam Rabbany Biplob (Bangladesh), Tapesh Sharma (India), and Shiva Puri (Nepal) conferred Don Quixote Award for the Best Film to *A House with No Name* (Patalghar, Bangladesh) by Noor Imran. Jury also conferred Special Mention to *The Secrets of Radha* (Nepal) by Subarna Thapa.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

☯ Cinélatino: Rencontres de Toulouse (France, 24 Mar–2 Apr) ☯ ZagrebDox: Zagreb Intl. Documentary Festival (Croatia, 26 Mar–2 Apr) ☯ Hong Kong Intl. Film Festival (30 Mar–10 Apr) ☯ Istanbul Intl. Film Festival (Turkey, 7–18 Apr) ☯ Buenos Aires Intl. Festival of Independent Cinema (Argentina, 19–30 Apr) ☯ Visions du Réel Intl. Film Festival Nyon (Switzerland, 21–30 Apr) ☯ Oberhausen Intl. Short Film Festival (Germany, 26 Apr–1 May) ☯ Wiesbaden goEast: Festival of Central and Eastern European Films (Germany, 27 Apr–2 May) ☯ Kraków Intl. Festival of Independent Cinema (Poland, 28 Apr–7 May) ☯ Cannes Film Festival (France, 16–27 May) ☯ Brussels Intl. Film Festival (Belgium, 27 Jun–5 Jul) ☯ Munich FilmFest (Germany, 23 Jun–1 Jul) ☯ Castellorizo Film Festival: Beyond Borders (Greece, 20–27 Aug) ☯ Miskolc Intl. Film Festival (Hungary, 1–9 Sep) ☯ San Sebastian Film Festival (Spain, 22–30 Sep) ☯ World Film Festival Kolkata (India, 20–25 Sep)