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INVITATION TO SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD 2023

To commemorate Satyajit Ray's Birth Centenary (2 May 1921-2021), FIPRESCI-India installed an Award titled: "SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WRITING ON CINEMA" in 2021.

The Award is announced every year on Satyajit Ray's Birthday conferring it 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 both in English and Bengali. His writings on cinema are no less important than his films. Earlier recipients of this Award are Aruna Vasudev (2021), and I. Shanmughadas (2022). FIPRESCI-India is honoured to declare the veteran author and film critic **Ashok Rane** as the recipient of this coveted Award for the year 2023 named after the great master.

Ashok Rane was born in 1952 at Navasari, Gujrat in a Marathi family. He got involved in the film society movement in 1976 by joining the Prabhat Chitra Mandal Mumbai, one of the largest film societies in India. Kind of writing on cinema he got to read through various journals of the film society movement inspired him a great deal and he started writing on cinema from 1977 regularly. For the last 46 years he has been continuing his writings both in Marathi and English. He has been contributing mainly to the largely circulated newspapers such as Maharashtra Times, Sakal, Mahanagar, Loksatta and Lokmat, and many reputed periodicals. So far, he has written more than 2,500 articles, reviews, critiques, and essays for different dailies and periodicals. He has been known as a film- critic, scholar, researcher, historian and teacher. He became a member of the executive committee of Prabhat Chitra Mandal in 1981, and thus turned into a full-time film society activist. Soon he became the program secretary of Prabhat and introduced innovative ideas in programming. Eventually he was elected as the Assistant Regional Secretary and later Regional Secretary for two terms in the Western Region of the Federation of Film Societies of India. He attended the Film Appreciation Workshop organized by NFAI-FTII in 1984. During the workshop Prof. Satish Bahadur appealed especially to the film society activists to start conducting Film Appreciation Workshop at their respective states in their own languages. Rane made

it his mission and since then conducted numerous workshops all over Maharashtra and in other states of India and USA as well where there are Marathi speaking people in large numbers. He conducted Film Appreciation Yatra holding workshops in 25 colleges of 25 cities of Maharashtra in five consecutive weeks.

His first book, 'Cinemachi Chittarkatha' about the history of world cinema was published in 1995 and that got him his first National Award. He received second National Award as a film critic in 2003 and the third one in 2019 for the book 'Cinema Pahanara Manus' - his autobiography as a cinephile. He is the only Marathi film critic to get National Award and that too for three times. He also received four state awards for his books. His books are, 'Cinemachi Chittarkatha' (1995), 'Chitra Manatala' (1996), 'Anubhav' (1997), 'Chitrapat Ek Prawas' (2001), 'Sakhkhe Sobti' (2003), 'Views & Thoughts on Scriptwriting' (2006), 'Montage' (2015), and 'Cinema Pahnara Manus' (2019). Besides writing on cinema, he also has directed eight documentaries so far. *Singing in Cinema* (English, 2005, 70 mins), *Masti Bhara Hai Sama* (Hindi, 2007, 60 mins), and *Anthony Gonsalves: The Music Legend* (Hindi, 2011, 58 mins) are about the song and dance format of Indian Cinema while *Dashavatar* (Marathi, 2009, 60 mins) and *Naman Khele* (Marathi, 2011, 26 mins) are about folk theatre of Maharashtra. *Being With Apu* (English, 2012, 35 mins) talks about Apu of the *Apu Trilogy* by Satyajit Ray. *Sanvadini Sadhak* (Marathi, 2014, 72 mins) portrays the life of the harmonium maestro Pt. Tulsidas Borkar. He has just completed a feature length documentary, *Yet Another Mohenjo Daro* (Marathi, 2023, 130 mins) that deals with the tragic story of the textile mill workers of Mumbai. He was conferred with the Best Director Award for *Anthony Gonsalves: The Music Legend* in the International Film Festival of India and also in the Mumbai International Film Festival for Shorts, Documentaries & Animations: MIFF. He has served as a member of the FIPRESCI jury in Moscow, Rotterdam, Montreal, Toronto, Kerala and Busan, and also at the National Film Awards for several times. He has been invited to Berlin, Cannes, Toronto, Sundance, Florida, Locarno, Karlovy Vary, St. Petersburg as a film critic. He is the Festival Director of Filmingo International Short Film Festival Mumbai and Ajanta Ellora International Film Festival in Aurangabad.

The Award will be conferred to Ashok Rane by Isabelle Danel, President, FIPRESCI on 21st May 2023 Sunday at 4:30PM (local time) at the India Pavilion of the 76th Cannes Film Festival. All friends and colleagues are cordially invited to attend.



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