

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-30

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

FIPRESCI-INDIA DECLARED WINNER & TOPPERS OF GRAND-PRIX-2022



In a press release issued on 19 June 2023 Fipresci-India declared *All That Breaths* by Shaunak Sen as the Winner of the Grand-Prix 2022 (Best Film of the Year Award) along with the Top-10 in preferential order as per evaluations made by the members through secret voting (as per list below):

1. *All That Breathes*, Hindi, Documentary, 2022, 94 mins. Dir. Shaunak Sen [WINNER of the GRAND-PRIX-2022]
2. *Aparajito - The Undefeated*, Bengali,

Fiction, 2022, 136 mins. Dir. Anik Dutta [Runner-Up]

3. *I'm Not the River Jhelum*, Hindi, Fiction, 2022, 95 mins. Dir. Prabhash Chandra

4. *Three of Us*, Hindi, Fiction, 2022, 98 mins. Dir. Avinash Arun Dhaware

5. *Like An Afternoon Dream - Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam*, Malayalam-Tamil, Fiction, 2022, 104 mins. Dir. Lijo Jose Pellissery

6. *Naanera*, Rajasthani, Fiction, 2022, 116 mins. Dir. Deepankar Prakash

7. *Seventeeners - Hadinelentu*, Kannada, Fiction, 2022, 122 mins. Dir. Prithvi Konanur

8. *Our Home - Eikhoigi Yum*, Manipuri, Fiction, 2022, 86 mins. Dir. Romi Meitei

9. *Nishiddho-Forbidden*, Malayalam-Bangla, Fiction, 2022, 124 mins. Dir. Tara Ramanujan

10. *Tora's Husband*, Assamese, Fiction, 2022, 135 mins. Dir. Rima Das

The award will be conferred to the winner physically in an occasion to be announced soon.

FIPRESCI-INDIA DEMANDS SEPARATE IDENTITY FOR MIFF

The National Film Development Corporation of India Ltd. (NFDC) is considering to assimilate the MIFF (Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation Films) with IFFI (International Film Festival of India) as one of its segments. To discuss the issue NFDC called for an online meeting on 6 June 2023 to seek inputs from the stakeholders. Accordingly, Fipresci-India submitted a letter to Anurag Thakur, MIC, I&B, GOI on 20 June



saying that the MIFF organized by the I&B Ministry since 1990 by the Films Division has been the platform where documentary films have been exhibited highlighting aspects of India's rich cultural and national heritage and treasures. Under such circumstances, NFDC's plan to assimilate MIFF with IFFI is quite unfortunate. The documentary, short fiction and animation films are meant for niche consumption attracting international audiences, and MIFF because of its distinct character is serving the purpose successfully for more than three decades. IFFI is meant for more commercial market and there should be no confusion between what it showcases and what MIFF shows. Hence, Fipresci-India requested the I&B Minister to intervene with the NFDC and ensure not only that MIFF continues maintaining its separate identity but also that it is made an annual event.

HAOBAM PABAN KUMAR'S FILM PREMIERED IN SHANGHAI



Ace filmmaker Haobam Paban Kumar's third feature film *Joseph's Son* (India, Manipuri, 2023, 84 mins) premiered on 13 June at the 25th Shanghai International Film Festival (9-18 June 2023) where it took part in the main competition section for Golden Goblet Award. The film is about the journey of a father in search of his missing son in ethnic clashes which is a serious political issue in Manipur for a long time. The missing son David, a passionate footballer, has not returned home, and his mother persuades Joseph to search

him out. During the journey, Joseph's fear grows deeper. After his highly acclaimed *Lady of the Lake* (2016) and *Nine Hills One Valley* (2020) this is Paban's third feature film which also deals with contemporary politics of Manipur and the agony of the Manipuri people in a highly artistic way.

OTTAWA INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL

6th Ottawa Indian Film Festival (Canada, 13 to 17 June 2023) concluded successfully conferring several awards to the winners. The jury composed of Alexandra Enberg (Sweden/Turkey), Armine Anda (Armenia), and Premendra Mazumder (India) decided to award the following films in the official competition: Best Feature Film – *Seventeeners* (Hadinelentu, Kannada, 2022) by Prithvi Konanur, Best Director – Champa Shetty for her film *Chicken Curry* (Koli Eseru, Kannada, 2022), Best Actor – Adil Hussain for the film *Footprints on Water* (English, 2023), Best Actress – Akshata Pandavapura for the film *Chicken Curry*, Best Screenwriter – Sanal Kumar Sashidharan for his film *Quarrel* (Vazhakku, Malayalam, 2022). The jury also decided to grant a Special Mention for a very strong Debut Film *Footprints on Water* (English, 2023) by Nathalia Syam. Best Short Fiction award was given to the film *The Journey Back Home* (Birha, Punjabi, 2022) by Puneet Prakash.



BOOK ON KUBRICK RELEASED

Narendra Bandabe's book KUBRICK – which delves into the life and work of the acclaimed filmmaker Stanley Kubrick, was released on 17 June 2023 at Mumbai Press Club. The book launch program was graced by the eminent actor Rajshri Deshpande, distinguished journalists Sanjay Singh, Mandar Parab, Alka Dhupkar, and others. The book provides insights into Kubrick's journey as a filmmaker and his rise to becoming a globally renowned director. Narendra Bandabe, a member of FIPRESCI, dedicated a decade to researching and writing this book. This book sheds light on Kubrick's penchant for selecting controversial literary works as the basis for his films and his ability to transform them into captivating cinematic narratives. The 164 pages paperback book in Marathi language priced Rs. 320/- is published by the Sadamangal Publication, Mumbai.

BOOK ON IRRFAN RELEASED

Shubhra Gupta's book *IRRFAN: A Life in Movies* was released on 11 June 2023 at the The Quorum Club Mumbai. This 426 pages hard cover book in English priced Rs.692/- is published by Pan Macmillan India. Tanuja Chandra, Sooni Taraporevala, Sunil Doshi, Honey Trehan, Shailja Kejriwal, Irfan's wife Sutapa Sikdar and son Babil, and several other dignitaries from Mumbai film industry were present. What is it that gave Irrfan Khan, an 'outsider' to Bollywood, his distinction? What has been his contribution to cinema? How does one measure his legacy? FIPRESCI member Shubhra Gupta asks these and other probing questions to members of the film fraternity who knew Irrfan, worked with him or observed him closely – Sutapa Sikdar, Shailja Kejriwal, Shyam Benegal, Tigmanshu Dhulia, Vishal Bhardwaj, Naseeruddin Shah, Mira Nair, Konkona Sen Sharma, Anup Singh, Tillotama Shome, Karan Johar, Anurag Kashyap, among several others.



KRAKOW

FIPRESCI Prize in the 63rd Krakow Film Festival (Poland, May 28 – June 4, 2023) was awarded to the film *Is There Anybody Out There?* by Ella Glendening (United Kingdom, 2023, 90 min). The jury composed of Igor Angelkov (Macedonia), Pawel Mossakowski (Poland), and Antonis Lagarias (France) in their motivation said: "for addressing an under-represented social issue with determination, insight and diverse cinematic means. At the heart of the

issue herself, the director raises crucial questions about contemporary perceptions of 'otherness' and 'normality', avoiding simplistic or conventional answers."

FLYING BROOM

FIPRESCI Prize in the 26th Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival (Turkey, May 31 - June 7, 2023) was awarded to the film *Totem* by Lila Avilés (Mexico, Denmark, France, 2023, 95 min). The jury was composed of Hélène Robert (France), Piotr Czerkawski (Poland), and Ayla Kanbur (Turkey). The film narrates the story of seven-year-old Sol, who is spending the day at her grandfather's home, for a surprise party for her father. As the daylight fades out she comes to realise that her world is about to change. The film was selected to compete for the Golden Bear at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival, where it had its world premiere in February 2023.





GUADALAJARA

FIPRESCI Prize in the 38th Guadalajara International Film Festival (Mexico, June 3 - June 9, 2023) was given to the film *Heroic* by David Zonana (Mexico, Sweden, 2023, 88 min). The jury composed of Ivonete Pinto (Brazil), Valentina Giraldo Sánchez (Colombia), and Andrew Kendall (Guyana) in their motivation said: “for its harrowing and ambitious portrayal of an Indigenous teenager struggling to survive in the militaristic world.”

TRANSILVANIA

FIPRESCI Prize in the 22nd Transilvania International Film Festival, Cluj-Napoca (Romania, June 9 - June 18, 2023) was awarded to the film *Between Revolutions* by Vlad Petri (Romania, Croatia, Qatar, Iran, 2023, 68 min). The jury was composed of Ariel Schweitzer (France), Bartosz Zurawiecki (Poland), and Alexander Melyan (Armenia). It's a story of two women who were separated by political revolutions and stay connected through letters, defying the physical distance and any turmoil. Zahra and Maria were close friends while studying in a university in 1970's Bucharest. Due to political unrest in Iran, Zahra is forced to return home. But they maintained their connection through a series of letters, chronicling their struggles as women fighting for a voice.



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FIPRESCI-INDIA ANNOUNCED ONLINE FILM APPRECIATION COURSE

Fipresci-India announced its 3rd Online Film Appreciation Course 2023 for eight days from 23 September Saturday to 30 September Saturday (Monday to Friday: from 3PM to 5PM; Saturday & Sunday: from 1PM to 5PM). Registration fee: Rs.1000/-. There are no other charges. Prof. Manu N. Chakravarthy will be the Course Director, while N Vidyashankar will monitor as the Course Coordinator. Schedule with course curriculum and faculty list will be communicated soon. Intending participants may mail to <indiafipresci@gmail.com>.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS IN 2023

☞ Munich, Germany, Filmfest München, June 23 – July 1. ☞ Brussels, The Brussels International Film Festival, June 27 to July 5. ☞ Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, June 30 – July 8. ☞ Yerevan, Armenia, “Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival”, July 9–16. ☞ Palic, Serbia, July 15–21. ☞ Motovun, Croatia, July 21 – 29. ☞ Locarno, Switzerland, August 2-12. ☞ Istanbul, Documentarist – Documentary Days, to be announced. ☞ Castellorizo, Greece, “Beyond Borders”, August 20–27. ☞ Venice, Italy, August 30 – September 9. ☞ Miskolc, Hungary, September 1–9. ☞ Drama, Greece, September 4–10. ☞ Toronto, Canada, September 7–17. ☞ San Sebastian, Spain, September 22–30. ☞ Chemnitz, Germany, “Schlingel”, September 23–30. ☞ Busan, Korea, October 4 – 13. ☞ Mannheim-Heidelberg, Germany, November 16–26.