

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-29

May 2023

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

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

SATYAJIT RAY AWARD 2023 CONFERRED TO ASHOK RANE IN CANNES



Isabelle Danel, President, FIPRESCI conferred the 'Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Writing on Cinema 2023' to Ashok Rane on 21 May 2023 at the India Pavilion of the 76th Cannes Film Festival while N Vidyashankar, EC Member of Fipresci-India presented the program (*photo above*). The award is announced every year on Satyajit Ray's birthday by Fipresci-India to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of an author to writing on cinema for propagation of film culture. Earlier recipients of this award are Aruna Vasudev (2021), and I. Shanmughadas (2022).

Ashok Rane has been writing on cinema for the last 46 years both in Marathi and English. He has been contributing mainly to the largely circulated newspapers like 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. His first book, 'Cinemachi Chittarkatha' (1995) about the history of world cinema 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 other books are, 'Chitra Manatala' (1996), 'Anubhav' (1997), 'Chitrapat ek Prawas' (2001), 'Sakhkhe Solti' (2003), 'Views & Thoughts on Scriptwriting' (2006), and 'Montage' (2015). Besides writing, he also has directed eight documentaries so far. 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 festivals as a film critic.



MESSAGE FROM FIPRESCI GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Ashok Rane,

Cordial thanks for your very kind words and your salute. As critics we are used to award prizes, to films and filmmakers. And who awards us? That the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award is dedicated to a critic, is therefore a great advantage. That it has been presented to you, is an honor for the Indian film criticism and for your international colleagues. It is your merit for the invaluable work you did as critic – also in our critics' juries at international festivals, beginning 2003 in Moscow and 2007 in Montreal. Pity that I couldn't be in Cannes this year, to greet you personally.

Yours Truly,

Klaus Eder

May 29, 2023, 1:30 PM

FIPRESCI-INDIA ANNOUNCED TOP-10 FILMS FOR GRAND-PRIX-2022

Fipresci-India declared the TOP-10 films of the year for the Grad-Prix-2022. Following ten films (in alphabetical order) have been declared as the toppers on the basis of the maximum number of nominations received by the voting members by secret ballots. Winner of the Grand-Prix-2022 will be

decided by the second round of voting on the basis of preferential votes from the following list of TOP-10: **1.** *All That Breathes* (Hindi, 94 min) by Shaunak Sen, **2.** *Aparajito* (Bengali, 133 min) by Anik Dutta, **3.** *I am Not the River Jhelum* (Kashmiri, 95 min) by Prabhash Chandra, **4.** *Like An Afternoon Dream* (Malayalam, 104 min) by Lijo Jose Pellissery, **5.** *Naanera* (Rajasthani, 116 min) by Dipankar Prakash, **6.** *Nishiddho* (Malayalam, 124 min) by Tara Ramanujan, **7.** *Our Home: Eikhoygi Yum* (Manipuri, 86 min) by Romi Meitei, **8.** *Seventeeners* (Kannada, 122 min) by Prithvi Konanur, **9.** *Three of Us* (Hindi, 98 min) by Avinash Arun Dhaware, and **10.** *Tora's Husband* (Assamese, 135 min) by Rima Das. The list is now available on IMDb at <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls568642074/>



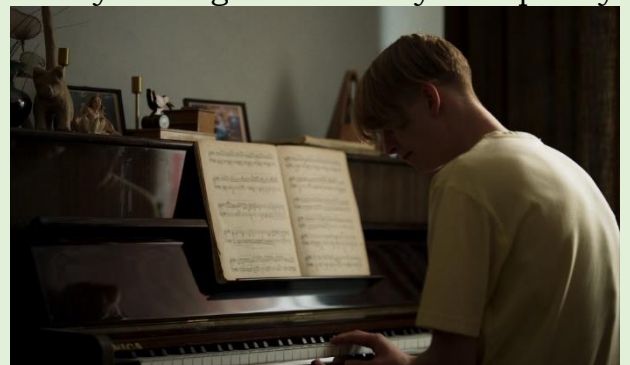
OBERHAUSEN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI prize in the 69th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen (Germany, 26 April to 1 May 2023) was given to the film *2720* by Basil Da Cunha (Portugal, Switzerland, 2023, 24 min). The jury composed of C J Johnson (Australia), Elaine Guerini (Brazil), and Hannes Wesselkämper (Germany) in their motivation said the prize was given to the film “For

creating an astonishingly vibrant portrait of a community through the beauty and poetry of masterful narrative storytelling”.

OFF CAMERA INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI prize in the 16th OFF CAMERA International Festival of Independent Cinema (Kraków, Poland, 28 April to 7 May 2023) awarded to the film *Bread and Salt* by Damian Kocur (Poland, 2022, 100 min). The jury composed of David Katz (UK), Sebastiaan Khouw (The Netherlands), and Wieslaw Godzic (Poland) said in their motivation that the film was acknowledged “for intriguing and subtle cinematography, constructive analysis of social problems and impressive acting”.



FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DU FILM CANNES CONCLUDED

FIPRESCI Jury in the 76th Cannes Film Festival (France, 16 May to 27 May 2023) was composed of Hsin Wang (Taiwan) Jury President, Thomas Abeltschauer (Germany), Olivier Bachelard (France), Andrea Crozzoli (Italy), Youngmee Hwang (Korea), Nicolás Medina (Uruguay), Karen Krizanovich (UK), Constant Carbonnelle (Belgium), and Léon Cattan (France). FIPRESCI President Isabelle Danel was in overall charge.

The Award Ceremony took place on 27 May at Les Ambassadeurs, inside the Palais des Festivals. The jury awarded the FIPRESCI Prize to the following films:

International Competition: *The Zone Of Interest* by Jonathan Glazer (USA, UK, Poland, 2023, 105 min)

“for its formal radicality, the complexity of the sound and score, and its contrast between the invisible atrocities behind the wall and a supposed paradise. By presenting the horror as something usual, and using everyday dialogues, it’s a reflection on ignorance as a disease that connects the past with the present.”

Un Certain Regard: *The Settlers* by Felipe Gálvez Haberle (Chili, Argentina, France, Taiwan, UK, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, 2023, 97 min)

“due to its skillful storytelling, which sheds light on significant and often overlooked socio-political conflicts inherent in the history of Latin American colonization, and its distinct approach to its theme through its filmmaking style.”

Directors’ Fortnight & Critics’ Week: *Power Alley* by Lillah Halla (Brazil, Uruguay, France, 2023, 92 min)

“Combined with compelling performances, vibrant editing, engaging music, and a thrilling narrative, this film is making the point that abortion rights are human rights.”

Justine Triet won the Palme d’Or for the thriller *Anatomy of a Fall* (France, 2023, 150 mins). Grand Prix won by the period drama *The Zone of Interest* by Jonathan Glazer (USA, UK, Poland, 2023, 106 mins). Thien An Pham won the Camera d’Or for *Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell* (Vietnam, Singapore, France, Spain, 2023, 182 mins). Un Certain Regard Award was won by Molly Manning Walker for *How to Have Sex* (UK, 2023). Grand Prize in the Critics’ Week was awarded to *Tiger Stripes* by Amanda Nell Eu (Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, France, Germany, Netherlands, Indonesia, Qatar, 2023, 95 mins). Fipresci-India member Meenakshi Shedde was there in the jury of the Critics’ Week this year.

SCHWERIN FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI prize in the 32nd Schwerin Film Festival (Germany, 2 May to 7 May 2023) awarded to the film *Retreat* by Leon Schwitter (Switzerland, 2022, 82 min). The jury composed of Bettina Hirsch (Germany), Sandy Kolbuch (Germany), and Rolf Breiner (Switzerland) stated “... In his film the director Leon Schwitter immerses himself in the Swiss mountain world to show how interpersonal dependencies can change. The retreat, a remote mountain hut, becomes a trap for father and son....”.





GOEAST FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI prize in 23rd goEast- Festival of Central and Eastern European Film (Germany, 27 April to 2 May 2023) awarded to the best documentary *Motherland* by Alexander Mihalkovich Hanna Badziaka (Sweden, Ukraine, Norway, 2023, 92 min) and best fiction *Remember to Blink* by Austėja Urbaitė (Lithuania, 2022, 109 min). The jury composed of Živa Emeršič (Slovenia), Davide

Magnisi (Italy), and Tina Waldeck (Germany).

MRINAL SEN BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATED

Film society activists, film enthusiasts, and admirers celebrated the birth centenary of the legendary filmmaker Mrinal Sen. Born on 14 May 1923 into a middle-class Bengali family from Faridpur (now in Bangladesh) in undivided India, he witnessed the partition, and the communist movement very closely. He was closely associated with the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) between 1943 and 1947. His directorial debut, *Raat Bhor* (1955) starring Uttam Kumar was rejected by the audience and critics. But the next films *Neel Akasher Niche* (1959) and *Baishe Sraban* (1960) earned him popularity. *Bhuvan Shome* (1969) which initiated the New Wave Movement in Indian Cinema made him an international legend. He made films in diverse Indian languages like Bengali, Hindi, Oriya, and Telugu. He received many national and international honors including eighteen National Film Awards, Padma Bhushan, and Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Govt. of France honored him with the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and the Russian Govt. honored him with the Order of Friendship. He was one of the few Indian filmmakers having won awards at the big three film festivals viz., Cannes, Venice and the Berlinale. He died on 30 December 2018 at the age of 95 in Kolkata. (Pic: Siliguri Cine Society organized a procession in the city to commemorate the birth centenary of Mrinal Sen on 14 May 2023).



UPCOMING FESTIVALS IN 2023

☞ Krakow, Poland, Krakow Film Festival, May 28 – June 4. ☞ Ankara, Turkey, “Flying Broom International Women’s Film Festival”, May 31 – June 7. ☞ Guadalajara, Mexico, Guadalajara International Film Festival, June 3–9. ☞ Cluj–Napoca, Romania, Transilvania International Film Festival, June 09–18. ☞ 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.