

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-31

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

## SAURAV RAI WON PROXIMA SPL JURY PRIZE IN KARLOVY VARY



The FIPRESCI jury composed of Engin Ertan (Turkey), Jan Storø (Norway), Jana Bébarová (Czech Republic), Cerise Howard (Australia), Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran), and Max Borg (Switzerland) awarded two films (1) *The Hypnosis* by Ernst De Geer (Sweden, Norway, France, 2023, 98 min) and (2) *Imago* by Olga Chajdas (Poland, Netherlands, Czech Republic, 2023, 113 min) in the 57<sup>th</sup> Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (Czech Republic, June 30 - July 8 2023).

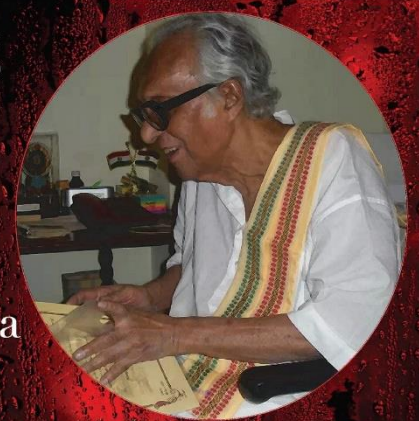
Saurav Rai, an alumnus of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute Kolkata won the Proxima Special Jury Award for his film *Guras* (India, Nepal, 2023, 114 min). The film narrates the story of a nine-year-old girl Guras and her beloved dog Tinkle who goes missing. Her family has other things to worry about and they are struggling for their existence. Guras is left on her own to look for her friend, the missing dog. The film is a mystical odyssey that shows the different ways of mourning of children and adults. Before *Guras* (2023), Saurav Rai made *Monsoon Rain* (Barkhay Jhari, 2014, short), *Memories* (Jhajhalko, 2014, short), *Happy Feet* (2014, doc.), *Nest* (Gudh, 2016, short), and *The Invitation* (Nimtoh, 2019). (In Photo: Crew Naresh Pradhan, Director Saurav Rai, Actress Menuka Pradhan and Crew François-Xavier Durandy.)

### E-CINEINDIA

The April-Jun 2023 Issue of E-CINEINDIA- the Quarterly Film Journal of Fipresci-India is now available online @ <https://fipresci-india.org/e-cineindia-april-june-2023/>.

Contributors to this issue include (in alphabetic order) Aparajita Pujari, Apoorva Dua, Debjani Halder, Dipsikha Bhagawati, GP Ramachandran, Kalpa Jyoti Bhuyan, Latika Padgaonkar, M K Raghavendra, Manoj Barpujari, Meena Karnik, Meghachandra Kongbam, Narendra Bandabe, Pradip Biswas, Purushotham Chalpathi, Ranjita Biswas, Rwita Dutta, S Viswanath, Shanku Sharma, Sovan Tarafder, and Utpal Datta. Proposals for contribution to the next issue (Jul-Sep) may be sent to <[indiafipresci@gmail.com](mailto:indiafipresci@gmail.com)> by 15 August 2023.

TRIBUTE TO MRINAL SEN  
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## **6TH SOUTH ASIAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY**

6<sup>th</sup> South Asian Short Film Festival opened on 3 July at Nandan, the film center in Kolkata, concluded successfully on 6 July 2023 showcasing 72 films in different sections. Satyajit Ray Golden Award for the Best Documentary was given to the film *Shepherds of Naar* (Nepal, 2022, 24 mins) by Asmita Shrish, Satyajit Ray Silver Award for the 2nd Best Documentary won by the film *Rat Trap* (India, Hindi, 2022, 35 mins) by Rupesh Kr Sahu, and Satyajit Ray Bronze Award for the 3rd Best Documentary was given to the film *Cross of Justice* (Sri Lanka, Sinhala, 2023, 30 mins) by Anomaa Rajakaruna (*in pic. left*). In fiction section, the Ritwik Ghatak Golden Award for the Best Short Fiction was given to the film *What Are You Searching?* (India, Hindi, 2022, 35 mins) by Princy Pal, Ritwik Ghatak Silver Award for the 2nd Best Short Fiction to the film *City of Light* (Bangladesh, 2022, 27 mins) by Sahadat Russell, and Ritwik Ghatak Bronze Award for the 3rd Best Short Fiction to the film *Mother* (India, Assamese, 2021, 19 mins) by Anupjyoti Choudhury. Mrinal Sen Golden Award for the Best Direction in Documentary was given to *The Valleys Our Ancestors Chose* (Pakistan, English, Urdu, 2023, 34 mins) by Tazeen Bari, and V Shantaram Golden Award for the Best Direction in Short Fiction won by *Two Way Street* (India, Hindi, 2022, 21 mins) by Asmit Pathare. The jury composed of Manas Ghosh, Mita Chakraborty, and Ujjal Chakraborty was present at the closing ceremony along with the eminent scientist and filmmaker Bedabrata Pain to confer the awards to the winners.



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## **MUNICH FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI prize in 40<sup>th</sup> FilmFest Munich (Germany, June 23 - July 1, 2023) awarded to the film *Fossil* by Henning Beckhoff (Germany, 2023, 94 min). The jury composed of Ela Bittencourt (Brazil), Serhii Ksaverov (Ukraine), and Frank Arnold (Germany) in their motivation said: “For his remarkable ability to mix social incisiveness — connecting the issues of working-class labor, generational family conflicts and environmental activism — with wry situational and visual humor and satirical yet empathetic perspective. The film depicts a prickly and at times unlikeable protagonist with great tenderness and surprising intimacy. The director’s use of the post-industrial landscape of the mining region is unique yet universal.” (*In Photo: FIPRESCI jury Frank Arnold, Ela Bittencourt, Serhii Ksaverov with prizewinner Henning Beckhoff and festival head Christoph Gröner. PC: FIPRESCI*).

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(*In Photo: FIPRESCI jury Frank Arnold, Ela Bittencourt, Serhii Ksaverov with prizewinner Henning Beckhoff and festival head Christoph Gröner. PC: FIPRESCI*).

## **BRUSSELS**

FIPRESCI prize in 6<sup>th</sup> Brussels International Film Festival (Belgium, June 27 - July 5, 2023) was awarded to the documentary *Adieu Sauvage* by Sergio Guataquira Sarmiento (Belgium, 2023, 90 min). The jury composed of Margarita Chapatte Lopez (Spain), Antti Selkokari (Finland), and Juliette Goudot (Belgium) in their motivation said that the award is given "... for the human and artistic qualities of the film that embraces friendship and explores love and Amerindian spirituality through a sincere and authentic vision."



"For a brave and powerful exploration of language as a destructive tool of oppression presented in an unorthodox and provocative cineastic form."

## **PALIC**

FIPRESCI prize in the 30<sup>th</sup> European Film Festival Palic (Serbia, July 15 - July 21, 2023) was awarded to the film *Afire* by Christian Petzold (Germany, 2023, 102 min). The jury was composed of Mike Naafs (The Netherlands), Alejandra Trelles (Uruguay), and Renaud Baronian (France). In a holiday home on the Baltic Sea four young persons meet. There is a forest fire and slowly and unnoticeably they are enclosed by the walls of flame. Trapped, they get closer, and then the desire, love and sex overtake them. The film won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Berlin International Film Festival in Feb 2023, where it had its world premiere.



Festival. Along with the Crystal Globe for Best Film and the Ecumenical Jury Award, the lead actress Eli Skocheva, in her first acting role after a thirty-year break, won the Best Actress award. FIPRESCI jury composed of Léa Ortuna, Thierry Verhoeven, and Veronika K. Zajdel in their motivation said: "... The film tells a touching story that intrigues from beginning to end, with some well-executed surprises. Instead of the expected story of endless misery, we have a strong woman trying to take control of her destiny but, in the process, losing more than anyone should ever be willing to sacrifice – her humanity."

## **YEREVAN**

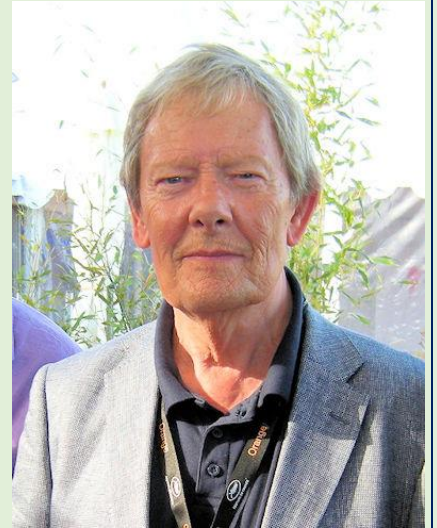
FIPRESCI prize in 20<sup>th</sup> Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival (Armenia, July 9 - July 16, 2023) awarded to the film *My Worst Enemy* by Mehran Tamadon (France, Switzerland, 2023, 82 min). The jury Veronika Zakonjšek (Slovenia), Wanda Bendjelloul (Sweden), and Anush Vardanyan (Armenia) said in their motivation that the film is awarded

## **MOTOVUN**

FIPRESCI prize in the 26<sup>th</sup> Motovun Film Festival (Croatia, July 21 - 29, 2023) given to *Blaga's Lessons* (Bulgaria, Germany, 2023, 114 min) by Stephan Komandarev. The film is about a retired teacher who loses her life savings due to a scam and, in the absence of other options, accepts an offer for a suspicious job. The film received several awards at the Karlovy Vary International Film

## **DEREK MALCOM**

Derek Malcolm was born on 12 May 1932 and educated at Eton. He joined the Guardian in the early 1970s and wrote a weekly film column until 1999. After the Guardian, he joined the Evening Standard and, after his departure as their chief film critic in 2009, continued to be active on the reviewing circuit and served as honorary president of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI). His 90th birthday party at the British Film Institute in London in 2022 was a well-attended and star-studded affair. He was highly respected by the film festivals like Cannes and Berlin, and visited several festivals in India many times. He was a great supporter of Indian cinema. He died on 15 July 2023 at the age of 91 at his home in Deal, of heart and lung failure, after a few months of illness. His death was confirmed by his wife, the historian Sarah Gristwood. Immediately after, FIPRESCI General Secretary Klaus Eder wrote the following letter to her:



**Dear Sarah,**

I got the terrible news that Derek has left us. It's a shock. I don't want to believe it. I feel him as still present. I still see him (together with you) at numerous festivals, the big and the smaller ones, Cannes and Kerala and others. It was always a pleasure to meet him, to talk about movies and about life, to listen to his ironic comments on the life of festivals, to adore his deep respect for the art of cinema. I always admired his curiosity about movies. While I was running not to miss a film, he had always seen them all: the newest blockbusters and the independent films from all over the world. He knew and loved cinema. It was his life. He looked in an adorable way and with the same eyes on star movies and on unknown debuts from far away countries. This made him a wonderful and ideal member of the juries on which he had asked him to sit (and on which he wrote over two dozen of texts worth reading, see our website). He was untouchable for filmic fashions and preferred to look for new and young discoveries (what he did for us as well as for some institutions like the European Film Academy). I learnt from him to be open to the cinema of the world (with his enthusiasm for India as a great example). I experienced this as critic, I learnt it in particular in my work for FIPRESCI. That FIPRESCI evolved from a Europe-dominated organization to a really international body (with members on all continents) is essentially his work and influence, as longtime president and member. We miss him. We still need him.

I send you, dear Sarah, my deepest personal condolences, and I send you the deep sympathy of all my colleagues in FIPRESCI. We will cherish the memory of Derek.

***Always Yours, Klaus***

**Klaus Eder, FIPRESCI General Secretary**

## **UPCOMING FESTIVALS**

☼ **Locarno**, Switzerland, August 2-12. ☼ **Amman**, Jordan, Amman International Film Festival (Awal Film), 15-22 August. ☼ **Castellorizo** (Greece), "Beyond Borders" International Documentary Film Festival, August 20-27. ☼ **Venice**, Italy, International Film Festival, August 30 – September 9. ☼ **Miskolc**, Hungary, Cinefest – International Film Festival Miskolc, September 1-9. ☼ **Drama**, Greece, International Short Film Festival, September 4-10. ☼ **Toronto**, Canada, September 7-17. ☼ **San Sebastian**, Spain, September 22-30. ☼ **Chemnitz**, Germany, September 23-30. ☼ **Busan**, South Korea, October 4-13. ☼ **Montreal**, Canada, Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, October 4-15. ☼ **Indianapolis**, USA, Heartland Film Festival, October 5-15. ☼ **Warsaw**, Poland, October 6 – 15. ☼ **Leipzig**, Germany, International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, October 8-15.