

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-32

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

FALLEN LEAVES BY AKI KAURISMÄKI WON FIPRESCI GRAND PRIX 2023

Fallen Leaves (Finland, Germany, 81 mins) directed by Aki Kaurismäki won the FIPRESCI



Grand Prix after having been chosen best film of 2023 by the members of the International Federation of Film Critics, FIPRESCI. The vote had the record participation of 669 critics from all over the world who chose this Finnish and German production from among all films released after 1 July 2022. Other two finalists were *The Banshees of Inisherin* (USA, UK, Ireland, 114 mins) by Martin McDonagh, and *Tár* (USA, 158 mins) by Todd Field, both premiered at the 2022 Venice Festival, where they respectively bagged the Volpi

Cup for Best Actor for Colin Farrell and the Volpi Cup for Best Actress for Cate Blanchett. *Fallen Leaves* premiered at the last Festival de Cannes, where it won the Jury Prize. This is the second time Kaurismäki received this recognition from the international critics after his *The Other Side of Hope* (Finland, Germany, 100 mins) in 2017. Since its inception in 1999, the FIPRESCI Grand Prix has gone to the acclaimed filmmakers like Maren Ade, Pedro Almodóvar, Paul Thomas Anderson, Alfonso Cuarón, Jean-Luc Godard, Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Michael Haneke, Richard Linklater, George Miller and Chloé Zhao et al. The FIPRESCI Grand Prix will be presented on 22 September 2023 at the gala opening ceremony of the 71st San Sebastian Festival. [Courtesy: FIPRESCI]

FILMS OF DOMINIC SANGMA AND LUBDHAK CHATTERJEE IN LOCARNO

FIPRESCI Prize in the 76th Locarno Film Festival (Switzerland, August 2-12, 2023) has been awarded to *Stepne* (Ukraine, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, 2023, 117 mins) by Maryna Vroda. The jury was composed of Ivonete Pinto (Brazil), David Katz (UK), Nada Azhari Gillon (France), Rasha Hosny (Egypt), and Jean Perret (Switzerland). Locarno is one of the oldest



major film festivals in the world. It's renowned for its traditional interest in independent cinema. This year there were two Indian films in Locarno, one SRFTI alumnus Dominic Sangma's *Rapture* (India, China, Switzerland, Netherlands, Qatar, 2023, 127 mins) and the other Lubdhak Chatterjee's *Whispers of Fire & Water* (India, 2023, 83 mins) [photos above]. Both the films are getting selected for several other acclaimed festivals worldwide.

69TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS FOR 2021 DECLARED

The Jury for the 69th National Film Awards announced the winners for the year 2021 on 24 August 2023 in Delhi. Before the announcement, the Chairperson and other Jury members called on the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Thakur and presented him with the selections for the Awards. The Minister thanked the Jury and said “It was a very tough competition between all the films in every category. My congratulations and best wishes are with the winners. Today India is the largest film maker in the world. We have the potential to become the content hub of the



world. This is our time. Today our films are being recognized all over the world, be it BAFTA or the Oscars.” The awards were announced by Sh. Ketan Mehta, Chairperson, Feature Films Jury, Sh. Vasanth S Sai, Chairperson, Non-feature Films Jury, Sh. Yatindra Mishra, Best Writing on Cinema Jury in presence of Ms. Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India. Best Feature Film Award was given to *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* directed by R. Madhavan in Hindi and the Best Non-Feature Film to *Ek Tha Gaon* directed by Srishti Lakhera. Hindi feature film *The Kashmir Files* directed by Vivek Agnihotri won the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration, while S S Rajamouli’s Telugu feature film *RRR* won the Award for Best Popular Film providing wholesome entertainment. Allu Arjun won the award for Best Actor for his stellar performance in *Pushpa: The Rise Part I* while Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon were declared joint winners of Best Actress Award for *Gangubai Kathiawadi* and *Mimi* respectively. Rajiv Vijayakar won the Swarna Kamal for the Best Book on Cinema for his book titled ‘Music by Laxmikant Pyarelal: The Incredibly Melodious Journey’ in English. Purushothama Charyulu also won the Swarna Kamal for Best Film Criticism in Cinema. He writes in Telugu language. Subramanya Badoor won a Special Mention in Film Criticism. He writes in Kannada language. Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director was won by the Malayalam film *Meppadiyan* by Vishnu Mohan. Reema Borah’s Assamese feature film *Anunaad-The Resonance* won the Award for Best Film on Social Issues. Krishand’s Malayalam film *Aavasavyuham* won the Award for Best Film on Environment. Acclaimed filmmaker Nikhil Mahajan won the Best Director Award for his Marathi feature film *Godavari*. Manish Saini’s Gujrati feature film *Gandhi & Co* won the Best Children Film Award. Nemil Shah won the Best Short Fiction Award for his film *Daal Bhat*. Avik Mukhopadhyay won the Best Cinematography Award for the Hindi film *Sardar Udham*. Sanjay Leela Bhansali won the Best Award for Editing for his own Hindi film *Gangubai Kathiawadi*. Language wise Best Film Awards were given to Monjul Baruah’s *Anur* (Assamese), Rajdeep Paul & Sarmistha Maiti’s *Kalkokkho – House of Time* (Bengali), Sujit Sircar’s *Sardar Udham* (Hindi), Pan Nalin’s *Chhello Show* (Gujrati), Kiranraj K’s *777 Charlie* (Kannada), Niraj Kumar Mishra’s *Samanantar* (Maithili), Saleel Shrinivas Kulkarni’s *Ekda Kay Zala* (Marathi), Rojin.P.Thomas’s *Home* (Malayalam), Mayanglambam Romi Meitei’s *Eikhoigi Yum* (Manipuri), Anupam Patnaik’s *Pratikshya* (Odia), M. Manikandan’s *Kadaisi Vivasayi* (Tamil), Sana Buchibabu’s *Uppena* (Telugu), and Biswajit Bora’s *Boomba Ride* (Mishing). There were many other awards in different categories. Jury of the Central Panel was composed of Ketan Mehta, Sabyasachi Mohapatra, V.N. Aditya, Paresh Vora, Manas Choudhury, Malay Ray, G. Suresh Kumar, Sunil Kumar Desai, Papia Adhikary, Muthu Ganesh, and Shantanu Ganesh Rode.

3RD ONLINE FAC OF FIPRESCI-INDIA

Fipresci-India will organize the 3rd Online Film Appreciation Course (FAC) from 23 to 30 Sept 2023. 60+ participants registered from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Following is the Schedule:

1. Session-I: Sept 23, Saturday 1.00 to 2.00pm: Introduction – What, Why and How of Film Appreciation. **Prof. Manu N. Chakravarthy**, Course Director, Academician, Scholar, Member FIPRESCI.

2. Session-II: Sept 23, Saturday 2.00 to 3.30pm: Film History and the changing shape of Cinema. (Including Technology, Market and Film). What Cinema has meant to different cultures at different times in History and now. **Mr. N. Vidyashankar**, Course Coordinator, Former Artistic Director Bengaluru IFF, Member FIPRESCI.

3. Session-III: Sept 23, Saturday 3.30 to 5.00pm: Auteur Cinema and the idea of distinct expression – A discussion on a few significant film makers from across the world. **Dr. Minakshi Dutta**, Academician, Faculty Member Dept. of Culture Studies Assam Women's University Jorhat, Member FIPRESCI.

4. Session-IV: Sept 24, Sunday 1.00 to 2.30pm: Understanding the Medium – Its Language, Grammar and Theoretical readings. **Mr. Ashoke Viswanathan**, Filmmaker, Faculty Member and former Dean SRFTI Kolkata.

5. Session-V: Sept 24, Sunday 2.30 to 4.00pm: Role of Academic Film Education, Film Societies and Film Festivals in deciphering and understanding Cinema as a multidimensional phenomenon. **Dr. Rita Dutta**, Academician, Faculty Member Dept. of Political Science, Maharaja Manindra Chandra College Kolkata, Editor, Member FIPRESCI.

6. Session-VI: Sept 24, Sunday 4.00 to 5.30pm: Film Movements that paradigmatically changed the film sense and form (Like Italian Neo Realism, French New Wave, Indian Parallel/Art Cinema etc.) **Dr. Debjani Halder**, Academician, Faculty Member School of Film Media and Creative Arts R. V. University Bengaluru.

7. Session-VII: Sept 25, Monday 3.00 to 5.00pm: Film Aesthetics and practice of film Criticism as different from traditional values in Critical understanding of mass media and traditional art forms. **Dr. Pranjal Borah**, Academician, Faculty Member Dept. of English Dikhowmukh College Shivsagar, Member FIPRESCI.

8. Session-VIII: Sept 26, Tuesday 3.00 to 5.00pm: Cinema as extension of traditional Arts, both Classical & Folklore– Literature, Theatre, Music, Dance and Fine Arts. **Dr. Manas Kr. Ghosh**, Faculty Member Dept. of Film Studies Jadavpur University Kolkata.

9. Session-IX: Sept 27, Wednesday 3.00 to 5.00pm: Narration styles – Genres and categories of Cinema (Like Noir, Musicals, Mythological, Westerns etc., as genres and Political, Crime, Suspense, Thrillers, Melodramatic, Biopics, Realist docs etc., - as categories). **Mr. M.K. Raghavendra**, Film Scholar, Author, Member FIPRESCI.

10. Session-X: Sept 28, Thursday 3.00 to 5.00pm: Distinctive aspects and characteristics of Indian Cinema (the Bollywood and its clones in regional cinemas and the alternate independent cinemas in all Indian languages). **Mr. Ashok Rane**, Film Scholar, Director of Ajanta Ellora International Film Festival, Member FIPRESCI.

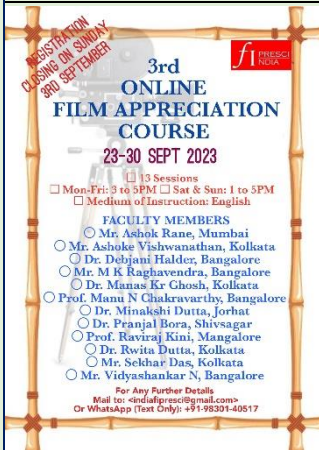
11. Session-XI: Sept 29, Friday 3.00 to 5.00pm: National Cinemas in their socio-cultural contexts. **Prof. Manu N. Chakravarthy**, Academician, Scholar, Member FIPRESCI.

12. Session-XII: Sept 30, Saturday 1.00 to 2.30pm: Digital revolution of the new millennium and the paradigmatic changes in film making, sharing, viewing, perceiving and articulation of experiences. New threats to creativity through innovations in Technology like AI and deep learning of Machines. **Dr. Raviraj Kini**, Head Nitte Institute of Communication, Director Nitte International Film Festival Mangaluru.

13. Session-XIII: Sept 30, Saturday 2.30 to 4.00pm: Interactive Session. **Mr. Sekhar Das**, Eminent Filmmaker, Kolkata.

14. Session-XIV: Sept 30, Saturday 4.00 onwards: **Valediction.**

Course Director: Manu N. Chakravarthy. Course Coordinator: N. Vidyashankar.

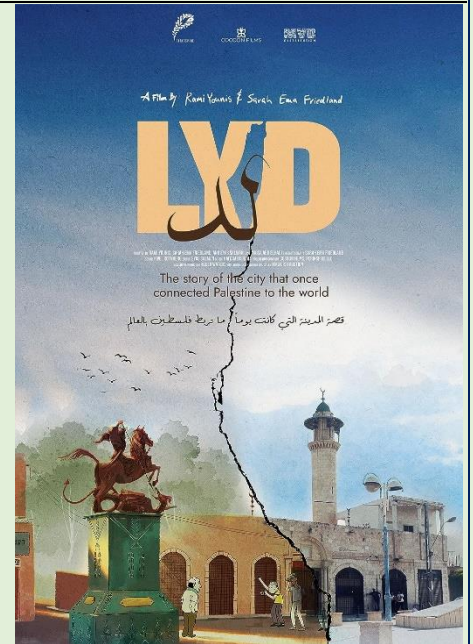


AMMAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The newly introduced FIPRESCI prize in the Amman International Film Festival (Jordan, 15 – 22 Aug 2023) was awarded to the sci-fi documentary *Lyd* (Palestinian Territories, UK, USA, 2023, 78 min) by Rami Younes and Sarah Ema Friedland. It's a story of a city that once connected Palestine to the world - what it once was, what it is now, and what it could have become. First ever FIPRESCI jury in this festival was composed of Henda Haouala, (France), Schayan Riaz (Germany), and Mohamed Tarek (Egypt).

BEYOND BORDERS INTL DOCU FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Jury in 8th "Beyond Borders" International Documentary Film Festival (Castellorizo, Greece, August 20–27, 2023) was composed of Senem Erdine (Turkey), Davide Magnisi (Italy), and Thodoris Koutsogiannopoulos (Greece). Established in 2016, the festival's objective is to promote the



most important documentary productions worldwide that focus on history, culture, politics and other social subjects. Beyond Borders focuses on documentary films that deal with historical events and personalities, with socio-political issues, with the promotion of human rights and with any transnational issue that reflects the concerns of contemporary cinematic art. This year the festival received 835 submissions from 93 countries and has included in its screening program 30 world, international and national premieres.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

☼ **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. ☼ **El Gouna**, Egypt, El Gouna Film Festival, October 12–20, 2023. ☼ **Vienna**, Viennale – Vienna International Film Festival, Austria, October 19 – 31, 2023. ☼ **Valladolid**, Spain, October 21 – 28, 2023. ☼ **Tunis**, Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage / Carthage Film Festival, Tunisia, October 28 – November 4, 2023. ☼ **Thessaloniki**, Greece, Thessaloniki International Film Festival, November 2–12, 2023. ☼ **Tallinn**, Estonia, November 3 – 19, 2023. Cottbus, Festival of East European Cinema, Germany, November 7 – 12, 2023. ☼ **Rabat**, Morocco, Rabat International Author Film Festival, November 8–18, 2023. ☼ **Amsterdam**, The Netherlands, IDFA – International Documentary Film Festival, November 8–19, 2023. ☼ **Ljubljana**, Slovenia, November 8 – 19, 2023. ☼ **Stockholm**, Sweden, November 8 – 19, 2023. ☼ **Taipei**, Taiwan, Golden Horse Film Festival, November 9 – 26, 2023. ☼ **Coimbra**, Portugal, “Caminhos do Cinema Português”, November 10 – 18, 2023. ☼ **Torun**, Poland, EnergaCAMERIMAGE, International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography, November 11–18, 2023. ☼ **Lecce**, Italy, Festival of European Cinema, November 11 – 18, 2023. ☼ **Cairo**, Egypt, November 15 – 24, 2023. ☼ **Mannheim-Heidelberg**, Germany, November 16–26, 2023. Gijón (Spain, November 17–25, 2023).