

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-33

September 2023

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

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

FIPRESCI GRAND-PRIX AWARDED

On 22 Sept 2023 at the gala opening ceremony of the 71st San Sebastian Festival FIPRESCI Grand Prix for Best Film of the Year was presented to Aki Kaurismäki's highly acclaimed film *Fallen Leaves* (Finland, Germany, 81 mins). This is the third time the Finnish director won this award. *Fallen Leaves* won the FIPRESCI Grand Prix after having been chosen as the best film of 2023 by the members of the International Federation of Film Critics. The vote had the 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. Since its creation in 1999, the FIPRESCI Grand Prix has gone to big-names including Maren Ade, Pedro



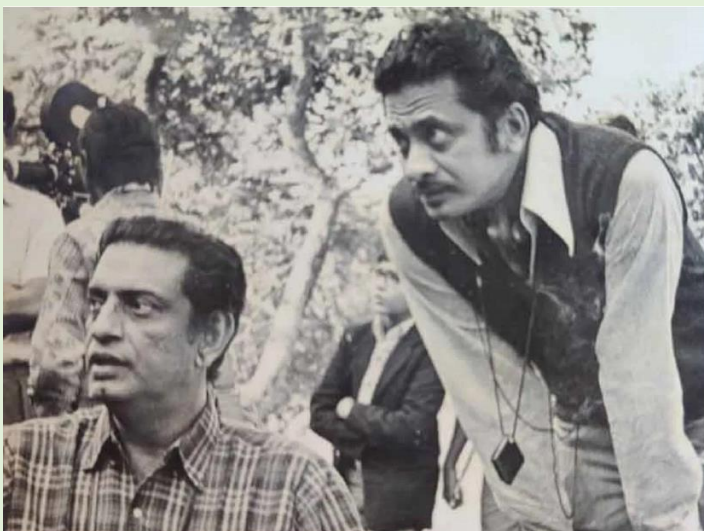
Almodóvar, Paul Thomas Anderson, Alfonso Cuarón, Jean-Luc Godard, Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Michael Haneke, Richard Linklater, George Miller and Chloé Zhao, et al.

ROMI MEITEI WON BEST DIRECTOR AWARD

Manipuri filmmaker Romi Meitei won the best Director Award for his film *Eikhoigi Yum – Our Home* (India, 2022, 89 mins) at 19th Kazan International Muslim Film Festival held from 5 to 9 Sept 2023 at Kazan in Russia. The film recently won the Best Meiteilon Feature Film Award in the 69th National Film Awards conferred by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India. The film portrays peaceful life of those who live in the homes built over floating biomass called Phumshang. Loktak Pat (Lake) is the mirror of an indigenous civilization. When an eviction notice was served on the dwellers of the Lake under the Loktak Protection Act 2006, their lives got shattered.



SOUMENDU ROY DIED



Acclaimed cinematographer Soumendu Roy died on 27 Sept 2023 in Kolkata. He was 90. He worked on 22 of Satyajit Ray's films like *Teen Kanya* (1961), *Abhijan* (1962), *Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne* (1969), *Aranyer Din Ratri* (1970), *Pratidwandi* (1970), *Ashani Sanket* (1973), *Jana Aranya* (1976), and others. He also worked with other famous directors like Tapan Sinha, Tarun Majumdar, Buddhadeb Dasgupta and M S Sathyu. During his long career he won the National Film Award for four times. He was the advisor of cinematography of the film institute Roopkala Kendra of Govt. of West Bengal.

2018: EVERYONE IS A HERO SELECTED FOR OSCAR COMPETITION



Malayalam feature film *2018: Everyone is a Hero* (2023, 148 mins) directed by Jude Anthany Joseph has been selected as India's official entry to the Best Foreign Film Category of the 96th Academy Awards 2024. Film Federation of India announced it on 27 Sept 2023 in Chennai where a 16-member jury (*picture above*) led by the master filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli watched about 20 films to take the final decision. FIPRESCI-India member Ashok Rane was there in the Jury. The multi-starrer film *2018* with Tovino Thomas, Kunchako Boban, Tanvi Ram and Aparna Balamurali in the lead produced with a budget of about Rs. 30 crores, already did a business of more than Rs. 200 crores in box office. The narrative of the film revolves around the story of survival of people during the devastating floods in Kerala. Jury Chairman Girish Kasaravalli said that the film was selected for its relevance on climate issues and the flawed concept of development. Director of the film Jude Anthany Joseph is a well-known name in Malayalam film industry. His directorial debut *Ohm Shanthi Oshaana* (Malayalam, 2014) won the Best Film with Popular Appeal and Aesthetic Value at the 45th Kerala State Film Awards.

2ND WORLD FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY IN KOLKATA



2nd World Film Festival, opened on 22 Sept 2023 at Nandan- the Film Centre in Kolkata concluded successfully on 27 Sept showcasing 26 films from all over the world. The festival was inaugurated by H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Panama in India Ms. Yasiel Burillo on 22 Sept showcasing a popular feature film *Algo Azul* (Panama) directed by Mariel Garcia Spooner. Besides the acclaimed Indian films like *Naanera* (Rajasthani) by Deepankar Prakash, *Pokhar Ke Dunu Paar* (Hindi) by Parth Saurabh, *Chicken Curry* (Kannada) by Champa Shetty, *Anunaad* (Assamese) by Reema Borah, several films from different other countries like *Patalghor* (Bangladesh) by Noor Imran Mithu, *Prakash* (Nepal) by Dinesh Raut, *Don't Bury Me Without Ivan* (Russia) by Libov Borisova, *Just Let Me Go* (Portugal) by Luis Diogo, *Paralympian* (Kazakhstan) by Aldiyar Bairakimov, *Even God Won't Forgive* (Tunisia) by Karim Berrhouma, *Sirimavo* (Sri Lanka) by Anomaa Rajakaruna et al were shown in the festival. The festival concluded by felicitating the National Award-winning filmmakers from Kolkata Sarmistha Maiti, Rajdeep Paul, Somnath Mondal and FIPRESCI Award winning filmmaker from Dhaka Khandaker Sumon (*picture above*).



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA
30.08 — 09.09 2023



Venezia 80 Concorso
Venezia 80 Competition

AKU WA SONZAI SHINAI (EVIL DOES NOT EXIST)

RYŪSUIKE HAMAGUCHI
con/with Hitoshi Omika, Ryo Nishikawa,
Ryuji Kosaka, Ayaka Shibutani

#BiennaleCinema2023
#Venezia80

VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in the 80th Venice International Film Festival (Italy, 30 Aug to 9 Sept 2023) awarded to the films *Evil Does Not Exist* by Ryūsuke Hamaguchi (Japan, 2023, 106 min), and *An Endless Sunday* by Alain Parroni (Italy, Germany, Ireland, 2023, 115 mins). The jury composed of Daniel Kothenschulte (Germany), Kevin Maher (UK), Paola Casella (Italy), Adriana Fernández (Mexico), Ramy Abdelrazek Hassan (Egypt), and Anna Maria Pasetti (Italy) considered the films, one for a feature-length film in the

Competition Section and another in the Side Sections of Orizzonti and Critics' Week.

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL MISKOLC

FIPRESCI Prize in the 19th Cinefest – International Film Festival Miskolc (Hungary, 1 – 9 Sept 2023) awarded to the films *Blackbird Blackberry* by Elene Naveriani (Switzerland, Georgia, 2023, 110 min), and *As If I Should* by Bianka Szelestey (Hungary, 2022, 16 min). The jury (*in picture*) composed of Malik Berkati (Germany), Kata Gyürke (Hungary), and Eithne O'Neill (France).



DRAMA INTL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in the 46th Drama International Short Film Festival (Greece 4-10 Sept 2023) awarded to the film *The Silence of the Banana Trees* by Eneos Çarka (Hungary, Belgium, Portugal, Albania, 2022, 24 min). The jury composed of Calin Boto (Romania), Achim Forst (Germany), and Stefanos Ntalasis (Greece) in their motivation said

that the award given to the film “For the sensitive approach and the composition of camera observations and documents of an actual life story, with the power of love and family connections, close however afar”.

SAN SEBASTIAN FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 71st San Sebastian Film Festival (Spain, 22 – 30 Sept 2023) awarded to *Fingernails* by Christos Nikou (USA, UK, 2023, 113 min). The jury composed of Rita Di Santo (UK), Thomas Abeltshauser (Germany), and Mariona Borrull (Spain) in their motivation said the award was given “... for an extraordinary visceral investigation of our need to validate love using an idiosyncratic, quirky take on the conventions of romantic comedy”.





TORONTO INTL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 48th Toronto International Film Festival (Canada, 7 – 17 Sept 2023) awarded to the film *Seagrass* by Meredith Hama-Brown (Canada, 2023, 115 min). The jury was composed of Cem Altinsaray (Turkey), Elijah Baron (Canada), Jindřiška Bláhová (Czech Republic), Diego Faraone (Uruguay), and Jenni Zylka (Germany). Govt. of India sent an official delegation to Toronto IFF this year led by Prithul Kumar, Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of I&B, and Managing Director of

National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) to focus India “as a hub of talent, content, and entertainment”. Six Indian films *Dear Jassi* by Tarsem Singh Dhandwar, *Kill* by Nikhil Nagesh Bhatt, *Thank You for Coming* by Karan Boolani, *Laapataa Ladies* by Kiran Rao, *Sthal* by Jayant Digambar Somalkar, and *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* by Anand Patwardhan were shortlisted in the official selection of the festival this year.

SCHLINGEL IFF

FIPRESCI Prize in the 28th Schlingel International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences, Chemnitz (Germany, 22 – 30 Sept 2023) awarded to *Echo to Delta* by Patrik Boivin (Canada, 2023, 91 min).



The jury composed of Igor Angelkov (Macedonia), José Solís (Honduras), and Holger Twele (Germany) in their motivation said, “.... In a film where fantasy and reality subtly intertwine, and in which human loss and guilt are deftly dissected, we learn that few human experiences are as universal as grief.....”

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

☼ **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).